

This is as rotten as it gets
Sacramento NAMES Project posts
reward for stolen AIDS quilt panels.
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Love to glove you, baby
The annual gay and lesbian
softball season begins.
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Ashley in 'Full Gallop'
Elizabeth Ashley discusses
her new one-woman show.
see Arts section



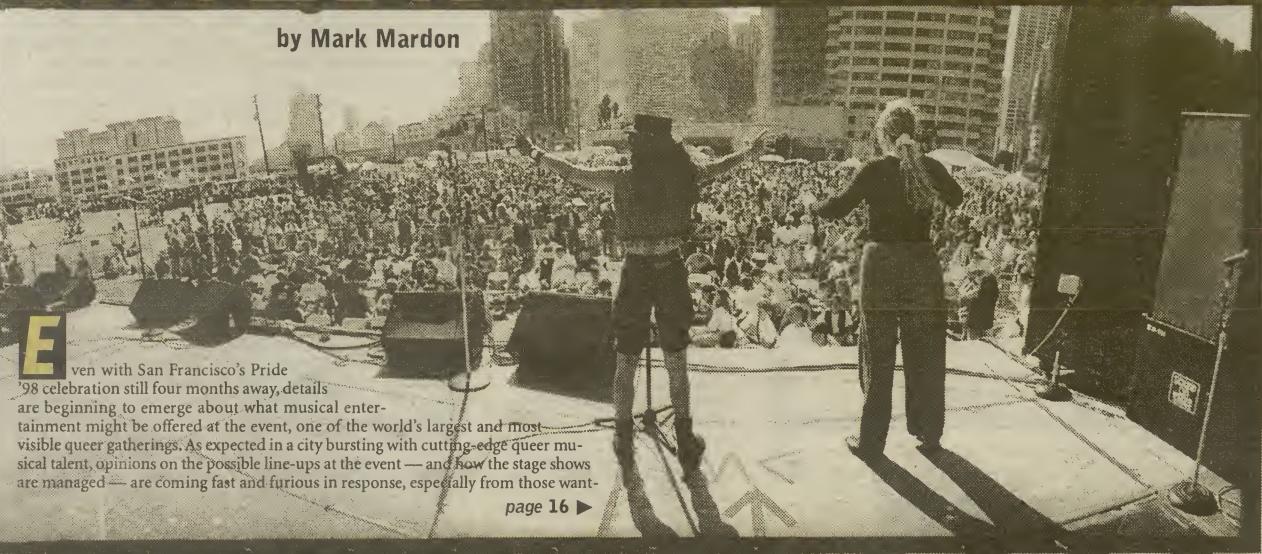
BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 8 • 19 February 1998

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Pride '98: music to whose ears?

by Mark Mardon



Rich Gerharter



Cynthia Laird

Deputy City Attorneys Paula Jesson and Amy Ackerman listen to a Feb. 12 discussion of the Brown Act with HPPC's Tracey Packer.

It's official: HPPC will follow Brown Act

by Cynthia Laird

Two months of legal research and discussion ended with San Francisco's HIV Prevention Planning Council's (HPPC) vote to abide by the state's Ralph M. Brown Act for open government procedures. After a lengthy discussion with Deputy City Attorneys Paula Jesson and Amy Ackerman last Thursday, February 12, council members voted 12-6 to follow the law, even though the council was arguably exempt. Five members abstained, including community co-chair Ellen Goldstein, whose proxy vote was cast in her absence because of a family emergency.

The Department of Public Health AIDS Office, which has ultimate authority to act on virtually all of the council's votes, is firmly behind the decision, said Tracey Packer, the departmental co-chair of the HPPC.

"It's definite," Packer told the B.A.R. "We totally support it."

Jesson and Ackerman answered numerous questions posed by the council, which decided to hear the matter in open session. Some members were concerned that if the HPPC voted to follow the Brown Act, it would limit their ability to get community input, but

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Internal documents leaked SFAF board takes note of exec salaries

by Cynthia Laird

A corporate headhunter's confidential memo for at least three San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) board members, presumably those on the executive committee that evaluates SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen's performance each year, shows compensation for top administrators at nonprofits is on the rise; the document also points to a new trend where executive directors receive a one-time bonus, much like their counterparts in the profit sector.

The controversial AIDS activist group ACT UP/San Francisco has come into possession of the document, and fears it will be used—or may have already been used—to sanction a raise for the SFAF executive director. According to federal tax returns, Christen's salary was \$148,794 for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1996, making her among the highest paid of any Bay Area AIDS service organization (ASO) executive, if not the highest.

Current salary 'not available'

The January 9 memo, written by Korn/Ferry International employment counselor Eunice J. Azzani, called attention to many organizations "opting to give bonus-

es rather than significant pay increases." Agencies with budgets greater than \$15 million typically saw executive director compensation ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000 annually; organizations whose budgets were under \$15 million generally paid their directors anywhere from \$75,000 to \$150,000. According to SFAF Communications Director Derek Gordon, the agency's annual budget is now approximately \$18 million, up from \$16.2 million in 1995-96.

The memo placed the median salary of nonprofit executives na-

tionwide at \$193,206, and stated the median rise in compensation was 5 percent. "Bonus pay is increasing for top executives," it said.

Azzani sent the information to SFAF board member Kathleen J. Burke, vice chairman of corporate human resources for Bank of America. Burke forwarded the materials to SFAF board member Lonnie Payne and Board President Paul Wisotsky on January 14, with a cover letter stating "I haven't analyzed the information myself,

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Eunice Azzani

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City's Multimedia Summit to organize digital gold rush

by Mark Mardon

A major summit on the future of the multimedia industry in San Francisco will take place in the city next week, and appropriately enough, the major force behind its development is a lesbian, Supervisor Leslie Katz.

The San Francisco Multimedia Summit, co-presented by Katz, Mayor Willie Brown, and the San Francisco Partnership, will take place on Friday, February 27 at the Yerba Buena Gardens Center for the Arts. It will be webcast live at www.gulch.com, and simultaneously telecast on cable TV channel 54. During the event, the movers and shakers in multimedia development will try to determine where the industry is headed, and how the city can help guide it.

For a clear understanding of the tremendous impact multimedia is having on San Francisco, participants at the summit need only look to a similar industrial boom in the city's illustrious past.

During the heady, sexy early days of the California Gold Rush, the promise of huge fortunes to be made in almost no time lured thousands to San Francisco — mostly adventurous, testosterone-drenched alpha males who competed in a Darwinian quest to become kings (or queens) of the Western frontier. The most ambitious, imaginative, and ruthless of these '49ers beat out the others in their quest for gold. The underdogs ended up scrounging for leftovers or slinking away in defeat.

It is precisely this dynamic, with the addition of women, that is occurring in San Francisco today. Legions of starry-eyed, rough-and-ready, fortune-hungry pioneers have thronged to the city, and continue to swarm here, competing for gold in multimedia.

This is the heart of the multimedia boom — Gold Country for those who dig software and intranets. The many thousands of young women and men who move here, or were fortunate enough to be living here when the boom started, mine fortunes in Web design, software engineering, systems administration, access providing, and online publishing. They see themselves as pioneers — or at least as the first wave — in shaping and exploring the New Media landscape.

"The nice thing about the industry," says Katz, "is that it's not physically taxing. It allows flexibility in terms of time and schedule. Most important, it relies on a rich culture."

A culture of odd

The same live-and-let-live, devil-may-care attitude that has allowed the queer community to flourish in San Francisco now attracts countless members of the digital revolution to the city. Having been nurtured on ideals of gay equality, civil rights, equal rights for women, and a host of other progressive notions, they want to work in relaxed, politically aware, multifaceted workplaces where talent is richly rewarded and bigotry is discouraged.

These adventurers, who pride themselves on being called "computer nerds," love being on the

cutting edge. They're programming geeks, graphic artists, writers, editors, video and film makers, digital photographers, marketing whizzes, and business entrepreneurs.

They seem to be everywhere, fresh out of college or newly liberated from stuffy, old-fashioned corporations, dressed casual but cool, buzzing with the latest Web news, and forming tight cliques. Not a few of these queers exist to confirm or refute the notion that the multimedia industry in San Francisco is more queer-friendly than, say, retailing, hairdressing, or the performing arts.

"There's really no way of estimating numbers or percentages of queers in the industry," said Scott Walton, executive director of Digital Queers, a national network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and "questioning" computer lovers. "There are only indications. This medium has been supportive of, and used by, our community. Many of the companies, being young, are interested only in people's work and do not judge beyond that. There's a culture of being odd, which is okay. The queer community has found this welcoming, or at least tolerant. This field is as welcoming as any."

Katz concurs, pointing to the industry's obvious style quirks as indications of its openness to diversity: "It is younger people without preconceived notions about workers. I meet with people with multicolored hair, with more piercings than I can count, and certainly more than I can see — but that's what's nice, there isn't a mold people have to fit into."

Many, perhaps most, companies in the multimedia industry extend more than mere tolerance to queer workers.

"The interactive companies were early in offering domestic partner benefits," said Katz.

Other indications of the prominence of queers in the new Gold Rush include the presence of queer Internet-based companies, such as GayNet (www.gay.net), the queer alternative to America Online; Planet Out (www.planetout.com), the home of online psychic drag queens, movie reviews galore, and up-to-the-moment community news; and Gloriosoft (www.gloriosoft.com), a programming and Web design enterprise whose lipstick-stained motto is "Bringing Software to Fabulousness." The company's home page invites visitors to "step right in, we can't wait to help you out, because darling, you're looking just a little tired."

And that is just the beginning, Katz believes. "We can't rest on our laurels," she said. "The summit demonstrates the city's commitment to this thriving industry. San Francisco has always been a hotbed of creativity. The continued growth of this industry deserves city attention." ▼

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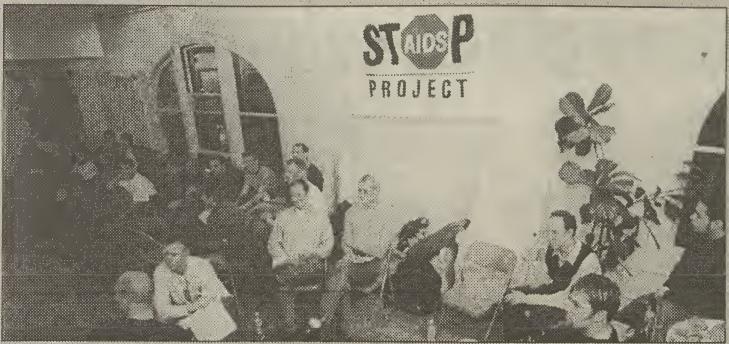
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Men loving men who love men



The Stop AIDS Project hosted a community forum, "I [Heart] Men: Relationships, Sex & Love," for gay and bisexual men Feb. 13 at the Women's Building. The event — just in time for Valentine's Day — was a "facilitated mixer" in which the men brainstormed flirting techniques, places and ways to meet other men, and "how to get him into bed."

Bear Blanket Babylon for Brit Bear

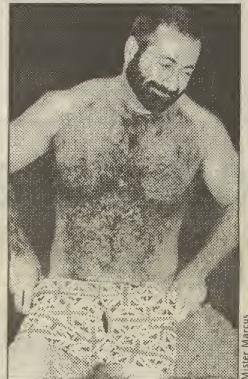
by Mister Marcus

Bears of San Francisco scored a whopping big 10 with Bear Rendezvous '98 last weekend. Almost 1,500 men from around the world began arriving as early as Wednesday, February 11th, and the farewell party at the Lone Star Saloon on Monday afternoon, February 17 ended what the bear community believes was its biggest fundraiser ever. Long lines materialized at bars and restaurants all over town as the hairy ones vacated their respective caves and came to San Francisco to play in the birthplace of their sub-culture.

The nasty weather that prevailed most of the weekend didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm. Event after event was staged in the South of Market area, and the "Bears Invade the Castro" foray on Saturday was a big success. The BOSF store at the host Ramada Hotel did a booming business, and it is probably safe to say local merchants got their share of bearness gilt.

Friday night was the official "meet and greet" party at the Eagle Tavern when 29 contestants showed up to meet their admiring audience and the judges. Beer busts at the Eagle and the Lone Star Saloon were packed with delegates from as far away as Australia, England, Germany, Holland, Canada, and several U.S. states. Of course, there were several "play" parties, but the activities at those venues were not open for publication — or photos!

The main event took place on Sunday night at the GiftCenter Pavilion. The lavish buffet dinner —



Brit bear Rod Savides.

was comparable to a four-star restaurant, and desserts didn't last long. The GiftCenter was decked out in bear flags and memorabilia and the superb music, sound, and lighting went off without a glitch all evening. David Dysart, Ed Costa, Dana Porres, and Bob Giudice made sure of that!

BOSF President Lurch, a veteran of this particular event as the emcee, was faultless with his timely remarks about bear life, gay life, and the current political scene (scandals and all), and didn't miss a beat throughout.

Twenty-nine contestants competed for the four titles of Cub Bear, Grizzly Bear, Daddy Bear, and International Mr. Bear. If the contestants themselves had not voted to compete under the plan that there would be 15 finalists after the pre-judging interviews, audience

members might still be there!

Judging was quite a task for the judges, who represented a good geographical cross-section: Al Fritsch of Atlanta; Ali Lopez from Santa Ana, California; Joe Parker from Austin, Texas; Michael Ramsey of Tempe, Arizona; and John Stonitsch from Nome, Alaska. Each contestant got a very warm reception from the audience each time out.

Interspersed between the on-stage appearances by the 15 semi-finalists, Michael Bruno, stand up comic and *Dirty Little Showtunes* producer, did a hilarious recounting of gay life in general, and bears in particular. Just before the winners were announced, America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet, The Kinsey Sicks!, stopped the show with their great voices and camp antics.

When all the votes were counted, a hush fell on the audience. Mr. Lurch received the envelopes with the results: Jeff Boone was named International Bear Cub; Loyd Powell was chosen Daddy Bear; Sherman Hanke swept up the Grizzly Bear title; and for the first time in its history, Rod Savides of Great Britain was named International Mr. Bear 1998, truly making the event an international competition. There was bedlam in the house. The audience went wild each time Savides hit the stage, with his handsome good looks, fury body, bulky but fine physique, and surprisingly reserved manner — definitely poster material.

IBR '98 proceeds will be presented to the beneficiaries later this year. The amount has not yet been announced. ▼

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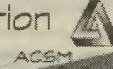
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HIV groups group to strengthen volunteerism

by Cynthia Laird

Volunteer managers from 42 Bay Area organizations that serve people living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk for becoming HIV-infected are seeking to invigorate AIDS volunteerism during a time of dynamic change in the epidemic, by collaborating to strengthen volunteer recruitment and share volunteers' expertise. The group, called the Collaboration of AIDS Volunteer Managers (CAVM), unveiled a comprehensive volunteering brochure Friday, February 13 at a volunteer recruitment fair at Levi Strauss Plaza. The Levi Strauss Foundation provided a \$15,000 grant for the project.

The collaboration represents 6,885 volunteers; the brochure illustrates the scope of volunteer opportunities at local AIDS service and prevention organizations — from those working with women, to those in communities of color, to those helping youth and the gay male communities — and lets current and potential volunteers know how their talents can help fight the epidemic in a variety of ways.

Mark Owens, of Project Inform, got the idea for the collaboration from Combined AIDS Recruitment Effort (CARE) in Seattle. "I knew that a similar collaboration would be a tremendous success and benefit to our community," said Owens. "There are so many diverse organizations in the Bay Area doing vital work in the fight against HIV disease. We are collaborating to recruit more volunteers, to promote the work of our organizations, to broaden our outreach, to assist each other in our roles as volunteer managers, and to support the volunteers, present and future, whose invaluable help makes a difference."

The effort is not limited to San Francisco-based organizations, but includes several East Bay groups as well, including AIDS Project of the East Bay and WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases). Other agencies that have not yet joined the collaborative are welcome to do so. The CAVM meets monthly to exchange ideas.

"The genuinely hopeful news about the new AIDS treatments has had the unfortunate side effect of lowering the public's sense

of urgency about the epidemic," said Christopher Esposito, of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "But the need for services such as primary medical care, stable housing, and substance abuse treatment for people with HIV/AIDS is greater than ever, and volunteers are needed to help fight this epidemic until it is truly over."

Local AIDS/HIV volunteers and clients talked about the importance of the work done by those who give their time.

"It is amazing to me that the simple things I do as a volunteer make such a big difference to someone. I can't tell you what it means to see the smile on my client's face when his laundry is done. It's not a big deal for me to do it, and it means the world to him," commented a volunteer for Shanti, which has 300 active volunteers. ▼

The volunteer recruitment fair will take place Friday from noon until 2:30 p.m. at the Levi Strauss Plaza Auditorium, 1155 Battery Street. For more information about the CAVM, call (415) 522-2339.

Queer workplace groups regroup

Pride Collaborative to combine resources

by Cynthia Laird

Three Bay Area organizations that provide support and advocacy services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in the workplace have joined in a new nonprofit partnership called the Pride Collaborative. Supported by the United Way, the new group includes Building Bridges, A Group of Groups (AGOG), and Progress. The three well-known Bay Area groups were created to advocate for safe and equitable working environments for the queer community and to foster leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy among LGBT people wherever they work.

Selisse Berry, executive director of the Pride Collaborative, said that the new association of queer agencies that focus on workplace issues will result in a more united effort. Berry, who is openly lesbian, said that Progress and AGOG have not had paid staff members, and that being part of the Pride Collaborative will provide that support. United Way currently provides all funding but Berry hopes she can solicit corporate donations once the collaborative gets off the ground. Additionally, she expects the budget eventually will include money from participating agencies.

"This collaboration is about visibility in the workplace, safety, and basic civil rights," Berry said. "We are excited that the United Way is taking a leadership role supporting a program that provides workplace sensitivity training

Progress summit was held in Sacramento; this year it will run from March 13-15 in Dallas.

Building Bridges is the group Berry headed at United Way. It offers LGBT sensitivity training in the workplace, using a training model that includes awareness, assessment, and an action plan. Berry said it is always presented within the context of broader diversity issues. Since its inception in 1990, Building Bridges has conducted over 300 training sessions to Bay Area organizations and businesses, including non-profit agencies, schools, government agencies, religious communities, corporations, and health care institutions.

"We are very excited about moving forward with this significant endeavor in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues in the workplace," said Thomas A. Ruppanner, president and chief executive officer of the United Way.

Berry said the Pride Collaborative is ready to begin working with area employers as well as with queer employee groups, and can provide assistance on a variety of LGBT workplace issues, including domestic partner benefits. ▼

For information about the Pride Collaborative, call Berry at (415) 439-4272 or e-mail: selisse.berry@theunitedway.com. For information about the upcoming Progress conference, call (888) PROLGBT, or e-mail: PROGRESSUS@aol.com. The website is www.bayscenes.com/np/progress.

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Selisse Berry

ing and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees of Bay Area companies."

AGOG was formed in 1994 by employees from 13 companies and is an association of LGBT employee resource groups throughout the Bay Area. In addition to fostering communication between member organizations, AGOG hosts social gatherings and networking activities.

Progress began in Southern California in 1996 by hosting a summit and leadership training program in San Diego. Since then, the network has grown to include nearly 500 employees, over 200 employee resource groups, and employers from 27 states. Its board now includes a number of Northern California queers, according to Berry. Last year's

Fabulous float



The elaborate Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) float wowed the downtown San Francisco crowd at the annual Chinese New Year's parade this past Saturday, Feb. 14. This year, 1998, is the Year of the Tiger on the Chinese calendar, and many felines, small and large, were in evidence during the nocturnal festivities.

\$1M to settle Castro, Mission King arrests

by Jaime Cader

The class action suit that was scheduled to go to trial Tuesday, February 17 on behalf of the 375 people arrested in the Mission and Castro districts in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict has been canceled due to a tentative settlement of \$1 million.

Rachel Lederman, the plaintiffs' attorney in San Francisco, said, "We decided that the million dollars amounted to an acknowledgment that the city had acted incorrectly, and [it] was a significant enough figure to send a message — to not only this city, but to other cities and other police departments around the country — that constitutional rights have to be respected, even and especially in controversial times when people are likely to take to the streets and protest. There's an absolute right to do that."

Janny Hazelar, a progressive-thinking straight woman and employee of the nonprofit organization Forests Forever, still becomes emotional as she recalls that May 1, 1992 evening when she was arrested in the Castro. Hazelar, a native of Holland, was part of a

small group that formed at Dolores and 18th streets then headed toward the Castro, chanting slogans.

Hazelar told the Bay Area Reporter, "We wanted to turn on Castro Street, but the police wouldn't let us. Then some panic ensued, people started running and people were hit by the police. So I now headed to Uncle Bert's Place. They [the patrons] wouldn't let us in. I thought, 'God, where's your bloody solidarity?' I was really disappointed."

Hazelar was arrested on Hartford Street between 17th and 18th streets, handcuffed, and ultimately taken to Santa Rita jail in Pleasanton. Queer Nation activists arrested in the police sweep were also taken to Pleasanton, where they were left out in the cold the longest during processing. Lederman and Hazelar both confirmed that AZT and other medications were taken away from those arrested. The word "Homo" was written on the wall of a cell where gay men were placed, and some guards made negative and hostile remarks.

Eileen Hirst, the representative of San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey, told the B.A.R., "We

were assured by Alameda County that medications would not be taken away. We filed a complaint with Prison Health Service, whom Alameda County contracts to provide medical services in their jails, when we learned that people did not get their AZT. By the time anything could be done, people were out [of jail]."

Final approval for the million dollar settlement still needs to come from the federal judge assigned to the case and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. ▼



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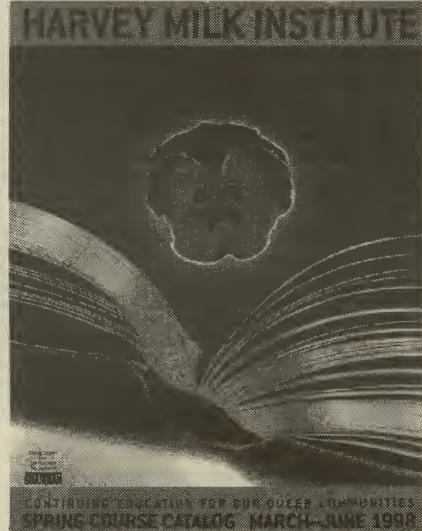
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Even the sun comes out

Even in the midst of the worst El Niño, sunshine can break through. What a relief.

Several events have hammered that point home recently, literally and in metaphor. As we predicted in this space last week, members of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council learned at their meeting Thursday that they were not necessarily bound by state or local sunshine laws. But to their everlasting credit, they considered the options and voted to voluntarily abide by the Ralph Brown Act, the foundation for open government in California.

It may seem like a small thing to some readers, but we think the HPPC members deserve to be congratulated for their foresight and dedication. It is nearly always wonderful to watch democracy in action, but it was especially moving Thursday evening to watch democracy in the process of protecting democracy. The vote was a goodwill gesture, and much more than that: it is the cornerstone of community trust and an acknowledgment that the council belongs to the people. That's a great, great message to get out.

If you know any of the HPPC members, be sure to let them know how terrific their action was.

(And, now that the HPPC is more open than ever and is about to begin an outreach to the community to bring new committee members on board, you might also start thinking about it in John F. Kennedy terms:

not only about what it can do for you, but what you can do for it.)

That dazzling burst of sunshine was followed by a new ray peeping through the clouds: The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has finally begun to relax its board meeting policy. It still isn't exactly *open* — the difference is that now people can call in advance, rather than write in advance, to ask to be invited to the board's quarterly meetings — but it is a *change*, and that's *something*. (For details, see page 25.)

The struggle to make SFAF more user-friendly has felt like a particularly raucous round of the children's game Mother, May I? for the activists who have been standing on the sidelines shouting "Take a giant step!" It's not likely they will be satisfied with the baby step SFAF has just taken — it is still considerably less open than any other AIDS Service Organization in town — but every journey, no matter how long, begins with a single step. It will be interesting to see the direction this first one will take SFAF, and how long the community will have to wait for the next one.

Of course, sometimes the rain comes around and blots out the sun. Such is the case in Sonoma County, even as we write this. Vice President Al Gore is now surveying the flood wreckage around Rio Nido, which is a nice enough expression of federal concern, but his lumbering Secret Service detail has somehow forced the disruption of food bank activities normally scheduled for

Wednesday. That's awful. That food service for the indigent is always necessary, but it is even more so this week, for the very reason Gore is visiting.

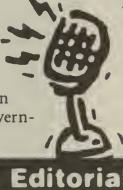
Surely Gore could have been rescheduled. He is only the vice president, which should not — *does not* — rank above flood victim or homeless person. We say that as a Gore fan, by the way, and we are sure that he'd agree if he knew the suffering his visit would cause.

Finally, we could not wrap up this assessment of sunshine without mentioning the *Bay Area Reporter*'s own golden beam of light and warmth, Chris Culwell. After four years as the paper's arts editor, Chris is moving on to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where he will get a perspective of the world that comes from being on the other side of press releases.

During his time here, Chris worked tirelessly to bring art and the community together — and to make Faye Dunaway's name a household word again. We're going to miss the hell out of him.

Still, as we remain shackled to our computers here at the *B.A.R.*, we wish him the best and promise not to gnash our teeth too furiously when we think of him living his new life — one in which people who enthusiastically expound on "the best opening in town" are probably referring to a *party*, and not to an advertiser on the last few pages of his section.

We wanted everyone to know before his name vanishes from the masthead that he's doing fine; we wouldn't want anybody to think he'd been, um, Dunaway with. ▼



In defense of marriage. Really.

by Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl

The following remarks were delivered on Freedom to Marry Day, February 12, 1998:

As we approach the end of this century, same-gender couples still cannot be legally married in any state, no matter how long they have been together or how desperately their families need the protection, benefit, and responsibility of civil marriage. Yet all that can change in a moment. The Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii is expected soon to issue a ruling requiring the state to allow same-sex civil marriages in Hawaii, and presenting the other 49 states with the questions of whether to recognize those marriages.

As I am sure you know, there have been a number of failed attempts in California to ban the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states. All five of the bills banning the recognition of same-sex marriages failed in the legislature and an attempt to place the issue on the ballot failed to gather enough signatures. Yet, despite all of his previous failures and despite the fact that public opinion in California continues to grow in support of same-sex marriage, Senator Pete Knight is spearheading an attempt to place a initiative banning the recognition of same-sex marriages in California on the upcoming ballot.

I can't begin to imagine how any legislator who takes his responsibilities seriously could spend so much time carving out one hateful exemption to the requirement that California give full faith and credit to any marriage performed legally in any other state, simply in order to prevent people who love one another from legally consecrating their vows.

These attempts to ban the recognition of legally performed marriages from other states fly in the face of our common-sense belief that America is one country and if you are married in one state, you are married — period. The Full Faith and Credit clause, the right to travel, and the Equal Protection clause are strong guarantors of the notion that Americans' basic freedoms don't dis-



The marrying kind: Dean Goodwin (Mayor Brown's office), NCLR's Kate Kendall, AOFC's Cheryl Deane, Supe Leslie Katz, LAMBDA's Clarise Liu, GLAAD's Don Romesburg and Tim Rodrigues (Carole Migden's office). All seven were gathered Feb. 12 to observe National Freedom to Marry Day and display Mayor Willie Brown's proclamation of this special day in our own San Francisco.

pear when they cross state lines. In the same way that states must recognize each other's corporate charters, or the decision in a trial, they must respect marriages lawfully contracted in other states. No one believes that legally married couples should have to get married again every time they go on a family vacation or transfer their job to another state. For this reason, California already recognizes marriages performed in other states that would not be allowed under California law, such as a marriage between first cousins or marriages between people under California's age of consent.

Assemblymember Knight would change all this, but only for same-sex spouses. Actually, it's no surprise. It is what those in power have always done to oppressed peoples to try to claim that they are somehow less than human. In the past we denied African-American slaves the right to marry. They were treated as chattel. A husband could be sold to one plantation and a wife to another, because they were supposed to be less than human. Later, after slavery was abolished, laws were created to prevent African-Americans from marrying whites. Here in California we prevented Asians

from marrying whites, in order to bolster our bigoted claim that Asians were somehow less than human.

Today, we look back with appropriate horror at these laws, but we must remember that they are not very far removed from our recent history. The last law prohibiting interracial marriage was not struck from the books until 1969. It is also important to remember that those who opposed interracial marriage did so with the same hysterical degree of moral certainty that those who are fighting against same-sex marriage have today, and with much the same language. I believe in my heart of hearts that a day will come when the majority of people will look back at this time and will shake their heads in disbelief at this kind of discrimination.

For any change to take place, our community and our friends and families and supporters must continue to speak out and tell the truth of our lives. We must talk to our co-workers, our neighbors, and our family members about the importance of the freedom to marry. Many thoughtful and fair-minded people see the fairness and rightness of respecting family relationships and committed, caring unions. Many more will, if given the chance. That is why National Freedom to Marry Day and the public discussion around marriage is so important. ▼

Guest Opinion



Photo credit

LETTERS

Another voice from 'Over there'

Well excuse me! But I beg your pardon for the editorial comment given to the letter from Scott Sprout about the AEF being unavailable in Contra Costa County because we have *not* seen fit to support AEF financially! This is preposterous and incorrect! I faced a similar edict from ABC several months ago when, after decades of donations to "worthwhile" AIDS causes, mostly San Francisco based, I was ineligible for counseling because I, too, live in CoCo County, a life-long resident. (They eventually saw me, after a fuss.)

I've personally raised at least \$1,500 in AIDS walks, have done work on various beer busts and events that both AEF and ABC were beneficiaries of, as well as having made direct contributions by check. No one asked for my county of residence when they took my money and efforts. Only when it's time to dole them out does it suddenly becomes important.

Let's face it, San Francisco is the center of the gay and AIDS communities in the Bay area. *So act like it!* Most AIDS cases, causes, and fundraising originates from there and we gladly cross the bridges to participate in "your" events. This is because here our community is spread thin and has no "center." *This does not mean we have not contributed greatly.* It's time for San Francisco gays to stop acting so elitist and provincial... or start saying we cannot accept your efforts or money because it's from "over there."

Jerry Power
Richmond

San Francisco provincialism

In the last 27 years in California, I've lived in Alameda County for 7 years, Contra Costa 3, Sonoma .025 years, etc., etc., etc.

Yet when it comes time to work at a beer bust, or sell raffle tickets, or cleanup ... no one asks about my residence.

Provincial? Does Eureka Valley even speak to Noe Valley?



Carl Heimann
Oakland

Democrats can sink!

They say in Washington, my last duty station, that if Bill Clinton were seen walking across the Potomac, the *Washington Times* would headline the story "Clinton Can't Swim!"

Your coverage of Democrats in general, and Clinton in particular, has been equally egregious, not just on the editorial page, where you can say anything you want — but in stories on the front page. They are neither factually accurate nor objective.

We deserve better. You publish for a literate and sophisticated *[sic]* readership. Don't insult our intelligence. Give us the facts, accurately and objectively, in the body of the paper. Editorialize to your heart's content on the editorial page. And let us draw our own conclusions.

Harmon J. Rabb
Menlo Park, CA

[Editor's note: If you're referring to "Dems screw gays again" (February 12), it was a critical part of the story that Democrats control the committee that chickened out — er, failed to pass the bill in question.]

The squatter's side of the story

I really don't know where to begin. First, I will tell all of you that I was one of those people who you called "squatters," [*"Preservationist to assess Fallon Building for CCP board,"* February 5] just because we sleep in vacant buildings or on the street. Others are called "vagrants," "homeless," or just plain old "bums." I am not one of those; I do have a good job and I am liked by many here in SF. Next, the Tenderloin Neighborhood Task Force was never consulted, nor will probably ever help anyone of us who was staying there at the Victorian (Octavia and Waller).

On Tuesday, February 3, 1997, I, along with about eight other people who were asleep in a very neat and clean rooms, was rudely awoken by the SFPD and bluntly told we were under arrest, which was really very useless since the charges would be dropped. They really didn't have to arrest us, they could have just told us to get up and pack our things and leave and never come back there. But, because of Mark Brestow and the two ladies that were there that morning, they wanted to be real jerks and have us arrested, except for maybe three to five others.

There were close to maybe 10-15 people living in different parts of the house but for the most part, there were six to eight of us who were trying to fix the house up and keep it from falling apart, which is what happens [to houses] when left abandoned. Plus, there are so many different stories going around that no one knows which story is true.

Steve Amuso
Homeless, San Francisco

Borrowing from PR to pay Paul?

I am disgusted by the actions of Paul A. Vander Waerd in recent months culminating in his guest opinion in the February 12 *Bay Area Reporter*. I, as a disabled PWA, am personally insulted that he dares to earn tens of thousands of dollars as a consultant in the HIV/AIDS arena when he has done little more than undermine the good intentions of many donors and volunteers who have given generously to PWAs.

Integrity is a value I live by and I can no longer sit back and watch vultures in AIDS service work give the rest of us a bad name.

Let the public know that Vander Waerd was contracted in good faith with AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC) to assist in grant development work. It was not long into his contract with ABC that he became an authoritarian and argumentative with not only the staff but also with the board of directors and volunteers. After the board did not accommodate his demands to oust Mark Misrok, the outstanding Program Director of Positive Resource, and then later to terminate the well-respected ABC Executive Director Paul Causey, the ABC board eventually terminated his general consulting contract. Does he now have a vendetta against the agency?

By using information he had available as ABC's paid liaison to both the Mayor's Summit on HIV & AIDS and to the Mayor's Office, he worked toward recommending an almost identical duplication of services currently offered efficiently by ABC and its Positive Resource program.

Please don't insult the 16,000+ clients who have used the services of ABC and Positive Resource going back as far as 1987. Nor the hundreds of donors, volunteers, and organizations who give to ABC ranging from the leather, bear, and drag communities, to MAX, Castro Lions, Academy of Friends, DIFFA, SPIKE, Juanita More, and many others.

I find it odd that the subcommittee's report felt compelled to criticize ABC's "managerial resources" — obviously they were good enough to garner a strong letter of support from Mayor Brown (December 15, 1987) endorsing several ABC grant proposals. Likewise, the "managerial resources" and the work of ABC were impressive enough to receive funding from scrutinizing donors such as Wells Fargo, Levi Strauss Foundation, the BWB Charitable Trust, GAP Foundation, and many others.

Vander Waerd's long-winded and multi-syllabic dissertations may impress or intimidate the naive but PWAs and our friends who work in the trenches know the truth. If we waited for a city bureaucracy to assist us with disability and employment counseling, we'd still be waiting!

Mayor Brown might be well-advised to investigate the personal motivation of Paul Vander Waerd, and to contact his recent clients regarding their experience with him, before moving forward with the subcommittee's recommendations. To my knowledge, Vander Waerd is not a PWA and has never needed or used HIV disability counseling or work re-entry services and this only underscores how out of touch he is with the intricacies involved with establishing, modifying, and delivering these unique services.

The combined 17 years of experience between ABC and Positive Resource offer the community a fine-tuned, comprehensive, and accountable community-based service. As such, it can maintain confidentiality, cater to unique cultural sensitivities, and adapt quickly to changes in demographic and treatment advances. The \$500,000 which I understand has already been earmarked for workplace entry and re-entry would have an immediate positive effect to fulfill all of San Francisco's needs if channeled through existing community-based agencies, with plenty left over for the coordination, planning, and evaluation aspects desired within the report.

Gary Virginia
San Francisco

S and 'em

Being a gay man I think I overdo (like a lot of us) the niceness, trying to prove we are as good as everyone else. I have been doing free cartoons and small signs for businesses that probably could not afford some. They are cheerful and happy. This week a locksmith stopped me on the street. It seems I am out too much, and a customer mentioned that the signs were made by a gay man. The most cheerful sign is now on the floor behind a counter. Wow!

What the hell is everyone afraid of? We do not bite ... unless requested to do so ... and then very gently.

This makes a person want to come out more.

I wish some morning we would all wake up and all the 100% straight men would have a large S on their foreheads.

There just may not be any ... or few ... making an S of themselves.

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

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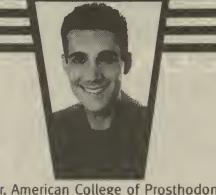
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EAT IN TAKE OUT

Between two generations

While riding in Minneapolis's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Parade as a grand marshal last June, I remembered my first pride festival 24 years earlier in New York City. I was 21, it was my birthday, and I was a member of the cast of Coming Out, and performed as part of the activities. That day I gathered with a tribe more powerful than I had ever encountered. Sure, the separatists chided the assimilationists, the butches didn't much like the nelly queens, and the media focused on our extremes, but when Bette Midler came on stage and sang "Friends," the future seemed resplendent with possibilities.

As I proceeded along the Minneapolis parade route, I found myself wishing I could have waved and blown kisses to the 119 friends lost from the unrelenting carnage in the AIDS war. Anger and despair have permeated so much of my life in the last decade as I fought for health all the while nursing, grieving, and memorializing. Only recently, friends' reconstructed viral highs and multiplying T-cells have infused hope and reconnected me to a future once more.

I also realized that a fuller set of issues now needs to be embraced within our community. Sexual freedom can no longer so predominate the agenda. Such fundamental concerns as internalized homophobia, sexual responsibility, as well as race, class, age, gender, and physical biases must be addressed. As one who has recently become physically disabled, I am continually confronted with the disquieting attitude of gay and lesbians toward difference. After two decades of queer pride rallies, I long for the gathering where not one of us will be excluded.

The lesbian community came to the fore to care for gay men as we died. Now it is my turn to advocate — no, demand — that women's healthcare issues are dealt with equitably. I envision the day when protesting the meager resources allocated to breast cancer research will involve as many of us as our Halloween festivities. Isolated seniors as well as disenfranchised queer youth must also become part of my universe.

Much has been realized in the years since my first pride rally: Ellen's out on television, Rupert Everett stars in movies that make millions, Elton's a knight, k.d. lang is as butch as she wants, Bill T. Jones is on the cover of Newsweek, Human Rights Campaign Fund dinners feature people like President Clinton and Coretta Scott King, and Southern Baptist hating boycotts sputter. However, while we may have become more culturally assimilated, little has changed to guarantee basic human and civil rights.

Just last week, Maine repealed its law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott announced he had "no intention" of bringing up Jim Hormel's nomination to be the ambassador to Luxembourg in the "near future." Nationwide, only 10 states have anti-discrimination protection, sodomy laws remain on the books in scores of states, and queer marriage and adoption issues continue to polarize the mainstream.

Today at 45, I am aware of being between two generations of gay identities. Often at professional functions that I attend as Executive Director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, my husband Larry and I are quietly reminded by older men how remarkable they think it is that we are an out couple. Inconceivable in their day, we are told. I am saddened to consider how few openly gay men and women are allowed to run cultural institutions in this country.

Conversely, when I was shooting the AIDS film *Walking with the Dead* in Tucson, one of the actors, 24-year-old David, told me that he hadn't ever known anyone who died, so he could not relate to the emotion in the work. Furthermore, since coming out was never an issue for him or his friends, he was eager to connect to a gay culture that was not defined by painful adolescence, struggle, and death.

Bridging these generations' perspectives, it is essential that we not forget the battles of the past as we forge new identities for the future. We need to build upon our legacies that have been crucial in defining our community over the past decades. Those fierce drag queens fought back at Stonewall in the late '60s, giving birth to the vehement ACT UP politics of the late '80s. Artists from all disciplines created deeply personal elegiac work arising from the pandemic. Without all of them I could not be who I am today.

How joyful it has been to be part of this idiosyncratic family and reap the benefits of their struggles. I look forward to participating as the next generations of queer activists begin to define their social, political, and cultural agendas. As I celebrate all we have achieved, I remember how much is still left to do.

John R. Killacky
San Francisco

Honoring Joe

There is only one way to honor Joe Alioto. His daughter, Angela Alioto, should run for mayor of San Francisco. Like her dad, she loves San Francisco and all of us who live here. The Alioto name belongs back in City Hall. We the voters can make it happen.

Allan Baird
San Francisco

TV très

While Kevin D. Melrose makes some valid points ("Queer TV guide," *Mailstrom*, February 12), much else he says is either open to interpretation or is simply erroneous and his vitriolic tone is rather startling.

While Melrose is entitled to his opinion about GLAAD, so am I. In my opinion, GLADD is neither thorough nor fair. Too often in our community being the only game in town gives one more credibility than one deserves.

Melrose totally misrepresented my comments about Kate Clinton. Clinton is a hilarious lesbian comic of merit. O'Donnell has been outed by numerous writers in the queer press. I'm not going there. Which is why I didn't mention David Crane by name.

There is no "inside joke" regarding either Waylon Smithers on *The Simpsons* or Josh on *Veronica's Closet* except in Melrose's mind. Both are queer as the proverbial \$3 bill. As for Gil Chesterton on *Fraser*, he ended up on the cutting room floor for space reasons as did some other minor sit-com characters, such as the lesbian couple on *Mad About You*. This column focused on major characters, not folks who flit on screen once every 10 episodes with a tray of canapés.

Melrose's long list of complaints regarding dramas were irrelevant to the piece as it dealt solely with comedy TV. Though having never missed a single episode of *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*, my favorite camp TV program, I'd love to know who these alleged queer characters are. Ditto *Just Shoot Me*, which had an excellent episode that dealt with a gay issue but has not introduced any gay characters.

Victoria A. Brownworth
Philadelphia, PA

Lost and found

This letter is in response to the slanderous and inaccurate article "Gay men say they lost everything at I Found It!" printed in your paper on January 1. Mr. Conkin, in celebrating his retirement from the B.A.R., has decided to write a poorly researched tabloid-style article, and doing this has endangered the incomes of many people who as consigners make their livelihood at I Found It!

As an antique dealer in the Bay Area, and an 8-year reader of the B.A.R., I'm very upset by the inaccurate writing in this article. The piece seems not to mention the restraining order against Mr. Eastwood and Mr. Kachikas for their harassing physical harassment attempts against the owners of the store. Not to mention the phone calls made to the owner's family in which they outed one owner to his rural California family, also telling them he has "unsafe sex with people with AIDS." This terrified his parents and caused great harm to his family, even his elderly grandmother was also contacted and harassed by Kachikas and Eastwood; she has since died. The men admitted to these charges in court. Many messages were left on the family's answering machine, and the tapes are available if Mr. Conkin would care to listen to them. This harassment from them which I now also risk in writing this letter. Mr. Conkin did not try to speak with the owners of I Found It! If he had, he would have realized this was, and continues to be, an attempt at extortion (one these men have tried with other local businesses).

The items were a "wish list." As a consignment store, its income is generated by the sale of consigned goods, and to sell an item valued at \$5,000 for \$200 is not in the interest of either party, and would not (and did not) happen. These men attempted to say many items in the store were theirs, when they were actually other consigners' items. This was proven in court on most of their claims except some items.

These men are two very clever con artists who have attempted and achieved to hurt not only two small business owners in the San Francisco Gay Business Community, but also the reputation of the B.A.R. by reporting such untruths. I have been a consigner with I Found It! for the past three years, along with other antique stores in the Bay Area, and have found that they are very honest businessmen who look out for their consigners' and customers' needs with great concern.

Dean McCracken
San Francisco

[We stand by the story — which, contrary to your assertions, was researched and accurate — and can only say we're glad your experiences do not mirror some other customers']

Depending on whose husband you ask...

I knew an East Bay escort who believed having sex with men isn't cheating on his wife. Whether or not oral sex counts as the same thing, well, there are three answers: yes, no, depends on who you ask!

Thorton Kimes
San Francisco

Send signed, original letters to 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

POLITICS

Boxer's pulled up again

by Wayne Friday

Only a few months ago, **Barbara Boxer**, California's junior U.S. senator, was considered by most to be facing an uphill battle in her November re-election effort. Indeed, Boxer, a 57-year-old liberal Democrat who is a former five-term House member and Marin County supervisor, was high on the GOP's "easy pickings" list as they looked to snap up Democratic senate seats in 1998.

Boxer's re-election chances have improved, however, and improved dramatically. Political logic had been that Boxer, who barely squeaked out a win in 1992 and has never enjoyed high poll ratings, would likely face a strong Republican nominee this year. Politicos believed she would have trouble convincing California voters that an "old-fashioned liberal" was really what they wanted to send back to Washington.

However, the Republicans have failed to put up a big-name candidate, and Boxer has been helped by a very strong national economy as well. The senator is finding it somewhat easier than expected to raise campaign funds, and recent polls now make her an early favorite to win re-election — by a seemingly healthy margin.

In fact, instead of a prominent, well-connected opponent, the GOP field has suddenly narrowed to **Frank Riggs**, an obscure, right-wing North Coast congressman; **Matt Fong**, who despite being our state treasurer is not well-known; and **Darrell Issa**, a millionaire businessman (shades of **Michael Huffington** and **Al Checchi**), whose only qualification for public office is apparently his deep pockets. While the most recent Field Poll shows Senator Boxer with only a 48 percent approval rating among state voters (she has never been above the 50-percent mark), she still holds a commanding 12-percent lead over Fong, the likely GOP nominee. If a Boxer vs. Fong election were held today, the incumbent would win handily.

Barbara Boxer enjoys an even wider margin over Issa (49-35 percent), and she boasts a huge 51-30 percent lead when paired against Riggs. Boxer is clearly the front-runner, at least according to the Field Poll. In the June open primary, in which voters can vote for whomever they please regardless of party registration, she would now poll 42 percent, up from only 35 percent at the end of November.

Two of the three GOP candidates are considered very conservative, while the third, Matt Fong, is a pro-life "moderate." Abortion has always been a hot-button issue in California, and Senator Boxer could benefit from a repeat of the 1992 election when Boxer, a liberal, wound up facing a right-wing conservative much like Rep. Riggs or Mr. Issa. The high number of women voters, Democrats and Republicans alike, who favor her pro-choice stance, might return her to D.C. once again.

Some Republicans believe the eventual GOP nominee should make the current sex-and-lies allegations surrounding **President Clinton** an issue in the fall campaign. Boxer's ties to the First Family — her daughter is married



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to **Hillary Clinton**'s brother — might make her particularly vulnerable in this area. The thinking is that the scandal — and Boxer's silence on President Clinton's escapades — could undermine her feminist credentials.

Many also feel that the ongoing *contretemps* could deprive incumbents, such as Boxer, of the benefit of Clinton's famed fundraising abilities. However, Boxer's camp says just the opposite has happened: her fundraising has actually picked up since the scandal developed. "If anything, people are coming forward and saying, 'We've got to help — even more,'" Boxer said last week.

As of a month ago, Senator Boxer's net campaign contributions were \$4.2 million, compared with Fong's \$1.7 million and Issa's \$180,000, although the wealthy Issa has loaned his campaign about \$5.5 million. Rep. Riggs only recently announced for the race and has just begun raising funds, but will likely draw well from conservative groups who agree with his anti-abortion, anti-gay position.

Boxer was clearly enjoying her status as the front-runner during her campaign kickoff rally in San Francisco Tuesday. While conceding that "I'm in for the political battle of my life against the Republican money machine," she declared that "I believe that I represent the mainstream views of California," even though she voted against Propositions 209 (anti-affirmative action) and 187 (anti-immigration). "In both cases," Boxer explained, "the people of California were sending a message, but I don't think they were angry with me because I had the courage to say what I felt on those issues. I think people like the fact that I'm willing to speak out, even if it's not a popular issue at the moment."

Indeed, if the GOP thinks that Barbara Boxer will be an easy target this November, they would do well to remember that political pundits of both parties counted her out when she ran for Marin supervisor in the '70s, the U.S. House in the '80s, and against well-financed Republican **Bruce Herschenson** in 1992. Senator Boxer's solid record in the U.S. Senate and her dogged campaign style appear likely to defeat any of the mediocre Republican candidates this year. ▼

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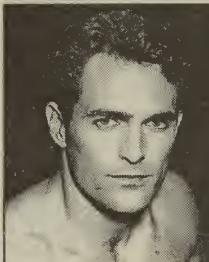


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Viva las wedgies

by Beth Elliott

Sheryl Crow may have found stardom by "Leaving Las Vegas," but the marquee of the Hard Rock said she was coming back a day before the Rolling Stones. Yes, there was your faithful columnist in that big, three-dimensional interactive cartoon in the middle of the Nevada desert known as Las Vegas. Or, as my friend and business partner, Sandi, and I called it, Las Veg-ass: tired of rain and overwork, we had flown out there so each of us could sit her ass down and veg.

We didn't go out of our way to find gay night life. A web search of "gay" plus "Las Vegas" found sites listing clubs, one of which was for "women and men" — the only bar with more than a smattering of women. The town's one women's bar? But it was a dance bar, and we had no interest in loud thump-thump music. Our entertainment tastes were running toward the Smothers Brothers and Dennis Miller ... and to reading the marketing intentions behind the various adult playgrounds through which we would gambol.

Getting into marketing analysis was a reflexive reaction for us, but not to worry: we do it for fun. After all, Las Vegas is nothing but marketing. Sure, the main draw is, and will continue to be, legal gambling. But the place has reached the saturation point for casino hotels; as the strippers in *Gypsy* sang, you gotta have a gimmick.

Sandi got an excellent rate on a room at the Orleans, a new hotel half a mile off the strip. Whoever put up \$200 million in a full market must have been aiming for a particular market niche, and we got a kick out of trying to figure out just what that niche might be. With low minimum bets, no exercise room or spa but a major bowling alley, we figured it was aimed at Midwestern ma-and-pa crowd who'd mostly do their gambling at Indian casinos but wanted a touch of that Vegas glamour. The Orleans seemed to do what they do quite well; it was a very comfortable place to stay and amuse ourselves.

We had to check out the roller coaster at New York New York, and it's a thriller. Our reaction to the ersatz Manhattan skyline was



Las Vegas does New York—and San Francisco may be next.

your basic "Yeah, right!" — and a shudder at the rumor that a San Francisco-themed casino was in the works. Interestingly enough, though, NY2 has done a very good job inside. A good part of the gambling section has a Central Park pond and trees, and there's a sizable restaurant and shopping section with a Greenwich Village theme, including a Sheridan Square street sign. We actually found it a very interesting and enjoyable space — and it seemed to settle the one speculation of ours.

Las Vegas, oddly enough, has been trying to play up the family-vacation angle, without compromising the allure of around-the-clock excitement. Well, mostly, what it seems to want to do is have enough stuff for kids to assuage parental guilt about dragging the clan along on a gambling vacation. Sandi said she wasn't sure what the progression of events would be, but she'd bet Disney would have a plant here within five years. After seeing New York New York, we revised that estimate to two and a half to three years. You'd think it wouldn't be a fit, but Vegas does seem to be moving in a theme park direction.

But we got most of our entertainment out of tortured comic geniuses. Tommy Smothers is Sandi's hero. For those of you too young to remember, the Smothers

Brothers are a folk duo with one mischievous brother, Tom, screwing up the songs and setting off the straight-man brother, Dick. They started at San Francisco clubs like the Purple Onion and hungry i in the 60s, and were signed by CBS to do a comedy variety hour at the height of the 60s. They did a lot of anti-war and hippie humor, trashed the network on the air over censorship, and got canceled in retaliation. It put a bullet to the head of their career for some time — and woke Sandi up to the red, white, and blue feet of American clay.

Tom literally could not smile for seven years, and does not come out to shmooze after the show, unlike Dick. But Sandi did get a letter of appreciation to him and got an autograph in return. BTW, the Smothers have a brand-new "best of" CD on Rhino.

Dennis Miller, former *Saturday Night Live* "news" anchor, might be this generation's reincarnation of Lenny Bruce: topical, scatological, "riffing" to the point of commenting on his riffing, and an incredibly vocabulary of culture and popular culture, absolutely slaying us. He's much more quiet and nervous in person than on the tube; he struck us as having realized he has important things to say, things that get lost in the laughter, and is worried he'll be unable to do anything about things that concern him. The man is an amazing talent, but we're worried he may be on that borderline between genius and losing it.

Miller dislikes San Francisco for its smugness, but gave The City props for domestic partner benefits. Like his Lenny Bruce era predecessors, Miller made a pitch for love of any kind being the most important thing in the world ... even if gay partners, as he joked, have to leave California, finagle Mexican citizenship, and sneak back in as illegal aliens to get the equivalent of spousal benefits.

We also amused ourselves by speculating what might happen if some Fundie politician went on a big campaign of criminalizing gambling and trying to clean up Vegas. Given some of the history behind the creation and development of the Strip, we had fantasies of a confrontation between the family values crowd and the, well, families. That fish logo on the cars for whom they'll sleep? Well, I was with a friend with a similar perverse sense of humor (be very afraid). ▼

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HISTORY LESSON

Gay in Tennessee

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Playwright Tennessee Williams dies in a drug-related accident, February 25, 1983.

Tennessee Williams created some of the most memorable characters in the history of modern theater. He won two Pulitzer Prizes, and many of his plays also became movie classics. His 25 full-length plays have been translated into dozens of languages and continue to be produced around the world. In addition, Williams dealt with the subject of homosexuality in a relatively direct way at a time when few writers dared to. All of these facts should make him one of our prominent gay forefathers. But Williams's place in the gay pantheon is complicated by his years in the closet, his tormented gay characters, and his tragic demise.

As an aspiring young writer, Tom Williams took the name "Tennessee" in honor of the home state of his father's family. He was actually born Thomas Lanier Williams in 1911 in Mississippi and grew up in St. Louis. Williams's life always provided capital for his writing. In *The Glass Menagerie* (1945), for example, Williams immortalized his dysfunctional family — absentee father, faded, Southern-belle mother obsessed with the past, and mentally unstable sister. Like Williams, the beleaguered son/brother of the play, Tom Wingfield, struggles to write but is overwhelmed by the burden of having to support his family by working in a shoe factory. The pressure finally drives Tom — as it did Tennessee — to leave St. Louis to pursue his writing career.

"Everything a writer produces is his inner history, transposed into another time," Williams said late in life. It wasn't just his tortured family that Williams mined for his work. He knew in college that he was gay when he fell in love with his roommate. But because of the repressive 1930s, he also understood that being gay was not "normal." His conflicted, often negative feelings about his own homosexuality eventually found their way into his best-known plays.

Homosexuality is the deep, shameful secret at the heart of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1948), which won Williams his first

Pulitzer. Blanche DuBois, one of the great tragic characters of the American stage, is plagued by the fact that her young husband killed himself after she confronted him in public about being homosexual. Her guilt drives her to despair, alcoholism, and eventually a mental breakdown. Blanche has a definite campy side, though — with lines like "I have always relied on the kindness of strangers" — that has led many readers to view her as a gay man in drag.

Williams's second Pulitzer Prize winner, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), again has homosexuality and suicide at its core. Though he never appears on stage, the character Skipper — who committed suicide over his sexual attraction to his friend Brick — haunts the play. Brick is unable to reconcile his love for Skipper with his negative ideas about homosexuality, and he sinks into alcoholism, frustrating his sensual and ambitious wife Maggie. "The Cat" both emotionally and sexually. Maggie is determined to produce an heir to the fortune of Brick's father, Big Daddy, and by the end of the play takes control by locking up Brick's liquor supply and attempting to seduce him.

Cat became a movie in 1958, but because of the strict film production code, Skipper's suicide and Brick's coldness toward Maggie went unexplained. At the end of the movie, Brick (played by Paul Newman) magically overcomes his sexual ambivalence and eagerly beds Maggie (Elizabeth Taylor). What on stage had been a sad and poignant exploration of the forbidden nature of love between men became, in Hollywood's hands, simply the triumph of heterosexuality.

Williams's 1958 play, *Suddenly Last Summer*, presents a much darker picture of a gay man. Like Blanche's husband and Skipper, Sebastian Venable is dead before the play begins, and his shadowy demise remains at the center of the play. Only his cousin, Catherine, knows the truth about it, and she is threatened with a lobotomy by Sebastian's mother if she tells Sebastian's secret — that he used first his mother and then his cousin to procure male sex partners for himself. In the end, Sebastian's gruesome death is revealed: he was cannibalized by a gang of Mexican boys he was at-

tempting to lure.

Given the time in which he was writing and his equation of homosexuality with death and ruin, it isn't surprising that Williams was closeted during most of his career. He did, however, have several serious relationships, including a long-term one with Frank Merlo, a former sailor he met while vacationing in Provincetown. It wasn't until openly gay critics prodded Williams to come out that he finally did so in his *Memories* (1975).

Over the course of his life, Williams became increasingly alcohol- and drug-dependent, and his writing suffered. On February 25, 1983, he was found dead in his New York City hotel room. He had tried to pry off the child-proof cap of a Second container with his teeth, and the plastic accidentally lodged in his throat and choked him. It was an ending fit for a Williams play. ▼



David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at ArBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net.

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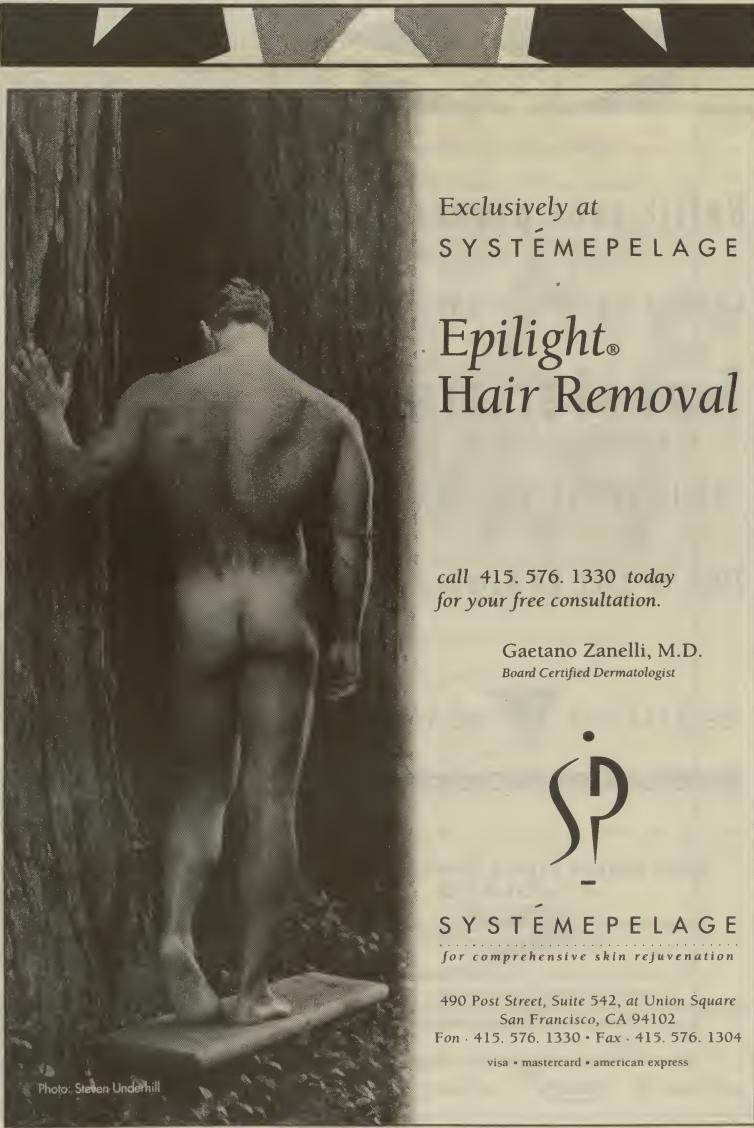
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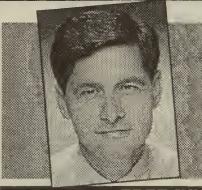


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Heavy metal rocker comes out on MTV

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource center manager

First appearing on MTV's Web site on February 5, and then on the cable channel's new news program, *MTV News*, a day later, former "beast from Judas Priest" Rob Halford came out as gay.

"I think that most people know that I've been a gay man all my life, and that it's only been in recent times that it's an issue that I feel comfortable to address," Halford told MTV. "It's something that I've been comfortable with forever ... and this is the moment to discuss it and to go into the reasons, and the why's and the therefore's, as to the statement — the so-called coming out phase," he added. In March, Halford's new band Two will release their first album, *Voyeurs*.

"A lot of homophobia still exists in the music world," Halford said. "I wouldn't say it's any more phobic in metal or rap ... but just something ... we all have to address in our own lives. If we have a problem with it, I think we should seek help and find out why we do have a problem with it." MTV said Halford hopes his openness will inspire others.

"I think it's difficult for everybody ... especially if you're a teenager," he said. "Maybe people like myself ... that do step in front of a camera and let the world know, maybe it's of some help."

In addition, the *MTV News* Web opinion page, "Blowhard" (http://mtv.com/mtv/news_launch.html), asks "Has heavy metal culture come to the point where a frontman's sexual orientation is not an issue?" It also states that MTV will "be taking a look at reaction amongst metal fans to Halford's statement, and would like to hear from you."

Please congratulate Halford for coming out and let MTV know what you feel about openly gay people in heavy metal culture and their fair coverage of Halford's announcement.

Contact: Rob Halford, c/o Nothing Records, 225 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; Judy

McGrath, President, MTV, 1515 Broadway, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10036-8901, fax: (212) 846-1942, WWW: http://mtv.com/mtv/news_launch.html

Intersex-o-rama

Two outstanding stories about intersex issues have been recently featured in unlikely places: the March issue of *Mademoiselle* and the February 9 broadcast of Chicago's FOX affiliate's 9 o'clock news. The FOX story, "Born Both Sexes," interviews both the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) Executive Director Cheryl Chase and intersex activist Angela Moreno.

"Intersex," reporter Laura Jones said, "challenges the conventional definition of gender." In addition to Chase, Moreno and

her parents discussed their frustration with a medical community intolerant of ambiguous genitalia. For Moreno, doctors recommended that at age 12 she be subjected to a clitoridectomy. "Surgery performed without their consent," Jones said, which "amounts to cosmetic surgery." Finally, ethicist Alice Dreger was also interviewed, stating that the current medical practice is unethical, and that the focus should be on helping children to accept who they are.

Meanwhile, the *Mademoiselle* article, "Am I A Woman or Am I A Man?" is an in-depth narrative by Angela as told to Jan Goodwin. She says, "I'd been told by my doctor that I had ovarian cancer and needed a hysterectomy." In reality, she says, at the age of 12 she was cosmetically made female and her enlarged clitoris was removed after doctors discovered she was externally female but internally and chromosomally male.

"No one at the hospital ever said what was really wrong with me. No one gave me any answers. For 12 years after that, I suffered in ignorance, afraid that I was some freak of nature," she says. Now she says she's taking control again by being an activist, speaking out against the medical practices she and thousands of other intersex people endure.

Please commend both WFLD-

GLAAD

TV and *Mademoiselle* for these inclusive and in-depth stories.

Contact: Stacey Marks-Bronner, General Manager, WFLD-TV, 205 N. Michigan, 2nd Fl., Chicago, IL 60601-5916, fax: (312) 819-0820; and Faye Haun, Managing Editor, *Mademoiselle*, 350 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017-3704, fax: (212) 880-8248

Straight Talk on Gay Dress

Columnist Matt Obmascik's article in the February 5 *Denver Post* skewered the absurd rule at a local high school against "dressing gay."

"At a time when most schools are begging students to stay, Lutheran [High School] booted a teenager for coming to school dressed like a homosexual, whatever that means," he wrote. "In the words of [the] school director, 'Our dress code states that students can't wear clothes in such a way to be in opposition to the Bible. He was asked to leave because of the gay clothing, the gay jewelry.'"

Obmascik noted that Jeremy Garza wore no clothes with gay messages — although he did wear a rainbow bracelet and necklace — and the 18-year-old supposedly "dressed gay" by wearing black leather pants, or buttoned-up green polyester shirts and "Ward Cleaver" pants.

"Some fabrics," he added, "even were a little shimmer."

"With a 3.3 grade-point average and an impressive 1,250 score on his SAT, Garta wasn't considered a troublemaker in school," he wrote. Garza told a teacher he was gay when asked, but the school director told Obmascik, "We don't want to remove a student just because he's sinful. If we did that, we'd all be gone. But we do have a dress code."

"Ah yes," the columnist continued. "That dress code. It bans students from wearing anything that brings undue attention, though covered tattoos and even Green Bay Packers jerseys are OK, as are male students with earrings. While visiting the school, I asked if my clothes conformed to code. The director looked at my soft, swishy corduroys and my plush, velvety sweater and said: 'You're wonderful!' In the hallways, I saw kids in heterosexual jeans, heterosexual shirts, and heterosexual sneakers. To be perfectly straight, I thought they dressed a lot like Ellen DeGeneres."

Please thank the *Denver Post* for this biting and insightful column highlighting the absurdity of generalizations about gay people and identity.

Contact: Jeanette Chavez, Managing Editor, *Denver Post*, 1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202-5177, fax: (303) 820-1369, e-mail: letters@denverpost.com. ▼

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RESTORING LEAN BODY MASS JUST GOT A SHOT IN THE ARM

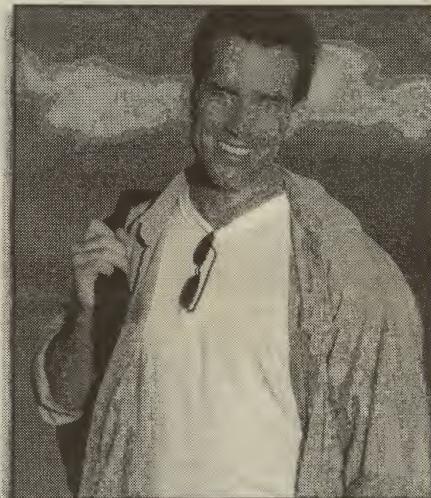
*SEROSTIM combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.**

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

You may know that wasting robs a person of lean muscle and organ mass, and physical performance. But did you know that it can strike anyone with HIV? At any time? Even while your weight remains constant? That's because you could be adding fat to your body while still losing lean body mass (LBM).

If you are experiencing wasting, discuss with your doctor whether SEROSTIM—human growth hormone—might be right for you.

SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



SEROSTIM isn't a steroid, an appetite stimulant or nutritional supplement. It's a completely new anabolic (LBM building) and anticatabolic (inhibits LBM breakdown) treatment that increases LBM and improves physical performance by interacting with a variety of cell types.

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide

BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at 800-714-2437 to find out about SEROSTIM's solution. ■

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*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim® [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analog therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 188 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (> 4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, fundoscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands or feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Table 1: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)	Placebo (n=150)
	%	%
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7	33.3
Fever	31.2	29.3
Increased tissue turgor	27.3	2.7
Diarrhea	25.9	20.0
Neuropathy	25.9	17.3
Nausea	25.9	16.0
Headache	19.0	20.7
Abdominal pain	17.1	18.7
Fatigue	17.1	16.0
Leukopenia	15.1	24.7
Albuminuria	15.1	9.3
Granulocytopenia	14.1	21.3
Lymphadenopathy	14.1	16.0
Increased sweating	14.1	8.7
Anorexia	12.2	9.3
Anemia	12.2	8.7
Vomiting	11.7	12.0
SGOT increased	11.7	6.0
Insomnia	11.2	9.3
Tachycardia	11.2	6.0
Hyperglycemia	10.2	6.0
SGPT increased	10.2	5.3

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hyperesthesia, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningism. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Reticuloendothelial System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritis, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatinine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection. **Pneumocystis carinii infection:** viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection. **Herpes zoster.** **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim® [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg.

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime. Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events. Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7

Serostim vials containing 6 mg (approximately 18 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.

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Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

July 1996



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April 1997

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'Gene therapy' HIV study halted

Concerns about taking PWAs off antivirals

by Mark Mardon

One phase of a controversial study focusing on "gene therapy" as a way to combat HIV has been brought to a halt because its research subjects — HIV-positive people whose viral loads have been reduced to undetectable levels — were required to temporarily suspend undergoing essential treatment with anti-retroviral drugs. Critics of the project held that such interruption of medication posed serious health threats to study participants.

According to William Lang, M.D., the study was closed so it could be modified. Lang is the principal investigator at ViRx, Inc., of San Francisco, which had been conducting the Phase II clinical trials for Cell Genesys, a biotechnology firm based in Foster City. Lang said the trials are being reconfigured so that test subjects "do not have to go off their antiretrovirals."

Critics had deemed the studies "unethical" and "ill-advised" because they appeared to put patients at high risk.

"There's no way people can go off drugs for one minute," said Mark Bowers, managing editor of treatment publications at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "You simply don't do that."

The reason, as suggested by Daniel S. Berger, M.D., in "Understanding and Managing Resistance" (*Positively Aware*, January/February 1998), is that "any time a dose is missed, the drug's concentration in your blood drops below what is required to keep HIV from replicating."

Once antiviral drugs cease to suppress viral replication, Berger noted in the article, HIV can mutate enough to render the entire class of drugs ineffective. Each individual's options for combining antiviral drugs are limited by costs, side effects, potential for drug resistance, and other factors. Once someone with an undetectable viral load goes off a particular drug regimen, they will almost certainly find that resuming that regimen at a later date proves ineffective. Even a new combination of medications may not effectively suppress the virus.

Patients considering becoming subjects in the research project were informed by ViRx, prior to participation, that "a risk of stopping your anti-HIV drugs for even a short time includes the return of more active HIV replication and perhaps more rapid progression of HIV disease. It is possible that the HIV which returns may be either more, less, or equally vulnerable to the drugs you were on. It is also possible that the drugs may not clear the virus from your blood as thoroughly or as quickly as they did the first time."

As Bowers puts it, "You don't get too many shots at this to get it right. If you deliberately screw up your first shot, you might not get another."

The study asked subjects to undergo two infusions of genetically modified T-cells — strained from the patient's blood and processed in a laboratory. At the time of the second infusion, the test subject would stop taking all anti-HIV medicines. The person's blood would be drawn and tested

frequently to see how long it took before virus levels, suppressed to undetectable levels by antiviral medications, became detectable. At that point, the subject would resume taking anti-HIV medicines.

Why genetic?

The purpose of the study was to develop a means by which

target and kill infected cells "as efficiently and early as naturally occurring HIV-specific T-cells, which are lost during the early stages of HIV infection."

At present, the best that antiviral medications can do is to suppress HIV levels to the point at which they are undetectable. Unfortunately, the virus remains dormant in a small number of

"There's no way people can go off drugs for one minute."

—Mark Bowers, SF AIDS Foundation

modified T-cells could enable a patient's immune system to fight off HIV. Rather than merely suppress HIV levels, the altered T-cells would, theoretically, destroy the virus completely.

According to Cell Genesys, the genetically engineered cells would

CD4 T-cells. When not suppressed through anti-HIV drugs, the hidden virus can actively re-emerge. Until a way is found to eradicate the virus from its hideaways, patients face the prospect of having to adhere indefinitely to a drug regimen. The Cell Genesys

study was focused precisely on finding such a solution.

"We need to support this kind of research in general," said Brenda Lein of Project Inform. "But we have to have a realistic expectation. The truth is, the research to this point has been rather disappointing. They have not shown any appreciable anti-HIV effect in humans at this point."

Lein called the Cell Genesys study "an important first step into moving gene therapy into humans," but added that "what's most horrific is the design of their most recent study." Specifically, she objected to subjects having to forego anti-HIV medicines, a step she deemed "unethical."

According to ViRx, 30 patients participated in the research project, "and no problems related to the gene transfer have been reported so far."

A similar study, utilizing a new protocol in which test subjects remain on their antiviral medica-



Project Inform's Brenda Lein

tions during the course of the research, is likely to be implemented sometime in March, according to ViRx's Lang. ▼

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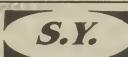
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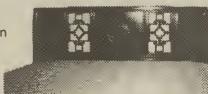
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Pride music

◀ page 1

ing to see the quality of the musical offerings jacked up several notches over previous years.

In informal comments to the B.A.R. recently, San Francisco Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington said he was hoping the Pride Committee could attract one or more "big name" musical entertainers to perform on the main stage at Pride '98. The committee's options for doing so are limited, he admitted, because of San Francisco Pride's current \$100,000 budget shortfall. Even so, he speculates that several top performers in Great Britain, where he ran Pride celebrations for many years, might be willing to waive their usual fee and come to San Francisco for free airfare and lodging. Such arrangements would be made possible through sponsorships by one or more airlines (he noted British Airways might cooperate) and local hotels.

In recent years at London Pride, Witherington arranged for the appearances of such top-billed performers as Erasure, The Pet Shop Boys, and Boy George.

For San Francisco Pride, Witherington speculates the Pride Committee might be able to get the '80s pop group Bananarama or the British rock group Sash. He also mentioned little-known former Laby Sifry, who sang the title song, "Something Inside So Strong," to the 1989 movie *Cry Freedom*. A more distant possibility, Witherington added, is British rock band Blur, which currently enjoys a huge following in the United States.

This year, for the first time, the Pride Committee will be assisted in its talent search by Ken Bunch. Bunch told the B.A.R. that he and Witherington have yet to seriously discuss the matter of entertainment, but that "I don't think it'll be difficult to get anyone from London fairly cheap, because they view San Francisco as a jewel."

His main objective on the committee, Bunch said, is to find performers who "are entertaining and have a strong social and political comment." He envisions bringing in at least one cutting-edge techno group, such as JX from London. That city, he said, "is the crucible, the experimental lab for music right now." Bunch also suggested porn star, author, and musician Aiden Shaw as a possible choice of performers. Shaw plays with the group Whatever.

"We won't be getting Spice Girls," Bunch hastened to mention, "because we're sick of them."

Is Pride a 'joke'?

Several San Francisco-based bands, DJ's, and record-label owners were happy to give the B.A.R. their own "wish lists" of who should perform at Pride '98. All felt strongly that the Pride Committee should be more proactive in its efforts to attract local talent. As for which "big name" entertainers they'd like to see at Pride '98, their opinions were all over the map.

Most of those interviewed echoed the comments of one local band member who said that "Gay Pride in San Francisco is such a joke, and they have one of the worst events possible. Nobody I know plays the festival anymore. The people who do, don't matter; they don't represent the community."

Of all the artists interviewed, Pansy Division's Jon Ginoli was most outspoken in his criticism of the way the Pride Committee has organized musical entertainment



like to see Ru Paul play at Pride, "before her star completely runs out." He included Jai, of England, as another good choice.

D'Arcy Drolling, singer for Enrique, one of the most popular queer bands around, voted for Ru Paul, Buffy St. Marie, Diss (from Scotland), Fantasy, and the Spice Girls.

Spit, singer for Candyass, listed his top five choices concisely as: Lady Stardust (David Bowie); Ziggie Stardust; Musty Chiffon; Jim Neighbors (Gomer Pyle); and Candyass.

Spit, along with other musicians, noted that megastar band R.E.M. is in town for the next several months to do a recording. Its lead singer, Michael Stipe, is gay, he added, and might want to do the Pride gig, although Stipe has always downplayed questions about his sexual orientation (but has been spotted in a number of gay bars since arriving in San Francisco).

The only problem with R.E.M., said Pansy Division's Ginoli, is "you run the risk of drawing a non-gay crowd."

Tedd O'Neil, bassist for "retard-rock" band Yusukata, said he'd like to see L7 play Pride, since that rough-n'-tumble "grrl group" is "kind of dykey." Alternatively, his choices are Stone Fox ("so tired, I know, but I really love them"), Exene, formerly of X, now with Auntie Christ ("she's really political and has done a lot of stuff for gay causes"), and R.E.M. ("Michael Stipe came into the Pil-sner where I work the other night," he divulged).

Aon, who with partner Kenny Latham runs Piece of Mind Records in Berkeley (www.piece-of-mind.com), thinks Justin Bond would be a great Pride act. Bond is best known as a cabaret performer in San Francisco and New York City.

When asked his opinion of Bananarama, Aon said "Ooh, gross!" — a sentiment shared in varying ways by several others interviewed. He added that "Blur is nice, but not very 'up' for a big event: They're kind of mellow." Aon reserved his greatest enthusiasm for Boy George, whom he said "kicks ass." He doubts George would attend, however, being the Big Star he is, but if he did, "that would be rad!"

Glam to super butch

Maya Martini of Kuntry Kunts, who recently won a Wammie award in the "Americana roots" category, and has been nominated for a Bammie award as well, thinks local band Blue Period would be the best choice for Pride: "They've really made a statement for glam rock."

Blue Period's vocalist Adrian Roberts suggests British anarchist band Chumbawamba as the best choice to headline Pride '98. That group's recent chart-topping single, "Tubthumping," from its 1997 album *Tubthumper*, has been a hit with queers. Roberts also favors Skunk Anansie, Psychotica, and Halford, who formed a new group, Two, after leaving Judas Priest.

Annie Toone, formerly of Bucktooth Varmints, a dykeabilly band, said she'd like to see Pride '98 feature such high-profile, but not necessarily gay, performers as Beck, Spooky, DJ Shadow, and Tricky. She'd also favor Sinead O'Connor, Jimmy Sommerville, and Marc Almond, all of whom have all played at London Pride.

Toone had another favorite as well, though of far less renown: "Lil' Kim is this way-butch rap girl who's on Puff Daddy's label. I don't know if she's gay, but she's super butch." ▼

mansex 101 free

Spring 1998
Discussion Series

Gay & Bi men meet to talk about

- Love
- Limits
- Sex
- Power
- Fantasy
- Body Image
- Cruising
- Dating
- Desire
- Risk
- Relationships
- Roles
- Trust



So Many Men... So Little Company

Wed • March 4 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Ever find yourself just wanting company and realizing the only way you know how to get it is by cruising for sex? Wonder how you can be so lonely in a town full of men? Is sex really the only way out? A conversation about how to get the companionship you want.

I'm Beautiful, Dammit!

Tue • March 10 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Do you feel invisible in the Castro parade of hunks? Feel that you have to be buff to be someone? That beauty is skin deep? And no matter how hard you try, you don't feel good about yourself? This discussion is about the pleasures and pressures of our obsession with body image.

Truth or Dare

Wed • March 18 • 8 to 10 p.m.
Can men be trusted? If you trust him, are you just being naive? If you don't, are you just paranoid? He says he's negative, should you believe him? He says he's being faithful, but...? Trust is a necessary ingredient of fun sex and good relationships. This conversation will help us strategize how to learn to trust him while still being able to recognize any red flags.

The 411 on Meeting Men

Thu • March 26 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Any luck out there? Are you sick of the scene? A follow-up to *So Many Men, So Little Company*, in this discussion we will brainstorm flirting techniques, places & ways to meet men, and how to let him know he's the one. Is it different if you are looking for friends rather than for lovers or sexual partners? Talk about how you approach men with the power to get what you want and the skill to offer what you have.

Suck that Dick!

Tue • April 7 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Is oral sex *really* safe sex? Can you get HIV from sucking dick? Is latex the only answer to making a blow job safe? What about taking his hot load? Pre-cum? A conversation about the possible risks of oral sex, how to deal with the uncertainties involved and still enjoy giving a good, old-fashioned blow job.

I'm With Stupid

Wed • April 15 • 7 to 9 p.m.
A conversation about long-term relationships, their wonders and their challenges. Can bed-death be avoided and sex kept hot and exciting? Open or closed? By agreement or without telling? Three-ways? Other arrangements? We will also talk about bugs and how to avoid bringing them home.

Call Me Kinky

Thu • April 23 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Lots of men have fantasies they would like to try out, but feel shy about bringing them up with sex partners and lovers. What are your ultimate fantasies? What is kinky for you? What if your fantasies involve fucking without a condom? Talk with other men about how to play out your wildest fantasies, spice up your sex life, and be safe.

Locker or Room?

Wed • April 29 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Come chat about sex clubs and other public sex environments. Share your best cruising techniques. What do you do if you don't like the guy approaching? How do you let guys you like know that you are interested? What role does booze play in public sex? Poppers? Crystal?

And what are the challenges of staying safe in the heat of the moment?

Little Black Book

Tue • May 5 • 8 to 10 p.m.
The art of dating. How to know whether someone is boyfriend material. When to have sex—the first date, the second... How to make the first move. How to gracefully end it if he's Mr. Wrong. Or how to deal with it if he decides you're Mr. Wrong...and you think he's Mr. Right. And, how can you stay safe, manage your anxieties and still enjoy dating?

Up for Grabs!

Wed • May 13 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Gay divorce? Recent widow? Jumping back into the scene after ending a relationship or losing a lover can be challenging. Where do you start? How long should you wait? Will your safe sex guidelines be different now that you're no longer in a relationship? This discussion will help you define your own strategies about restarting your love and sex life.

Power Play

Thu • May 21 • 7 to 9 p.m.
So, is it all about power? A conversation about the role that power and fantasy play in our decisions about sex. Is it different if he is younger or older? A different ethnicity? What if he's a top or a pushy bottom? How about if he pays for sex...or you do? We will talk about how power differences may enhance or affect pleasure and excitement during sex, and how to give and take power without giving up safety.

I Think I Love You

Tue • May 26 • 7 to 9 p.m.
A discussion about the role of love in the lives & sexuality of gay & bi men. Are love and infatuation the same? What would you do for love? Have you done things you later regretted? And things that make you totally proud? How do we make it work? Share your best and most infamous romance stories with other men!

More of a Man

Wed • June 3 • 7 to 9 p.m.
As gay & bi men, we grow up with lots of pressures about being masculine. Macho. In this discussion, we will explore what it means to be a "man," and whether that's the same as being a queer man. Are muscles and liposuction manly? Is androgyny femme? And what about using OIL of Olay, being a femme top, or a butch bottom?

Cooties!

Tue • June 16 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Crabs? Not the kind on Fisherman's Wharf! We know condoms can stop HIV...But what about all the other bugs out there? Gonorrhea. Syphilis. Chlamydia. Anal warts. Hep, herpes and other critters. What are they? How do you know if you've got 'em? How do you avoid getting them? Lots of helpful hints.

Science of Sodomy

Thu • June 25 • 7 to 9 p.m.
Always wondered why a blow job was safer than butt sex? The easiest ways for HIV to get into your body? The myths? The facts? We'll talk about cuts and wounds, mucous membranes, tops and bottoms, pre-cum, saliva and more. And how your knowledge of HIV helps or hinders the way you have sex. High School Biology was never this fun!

To register:

Call:
415.621.7177 x235

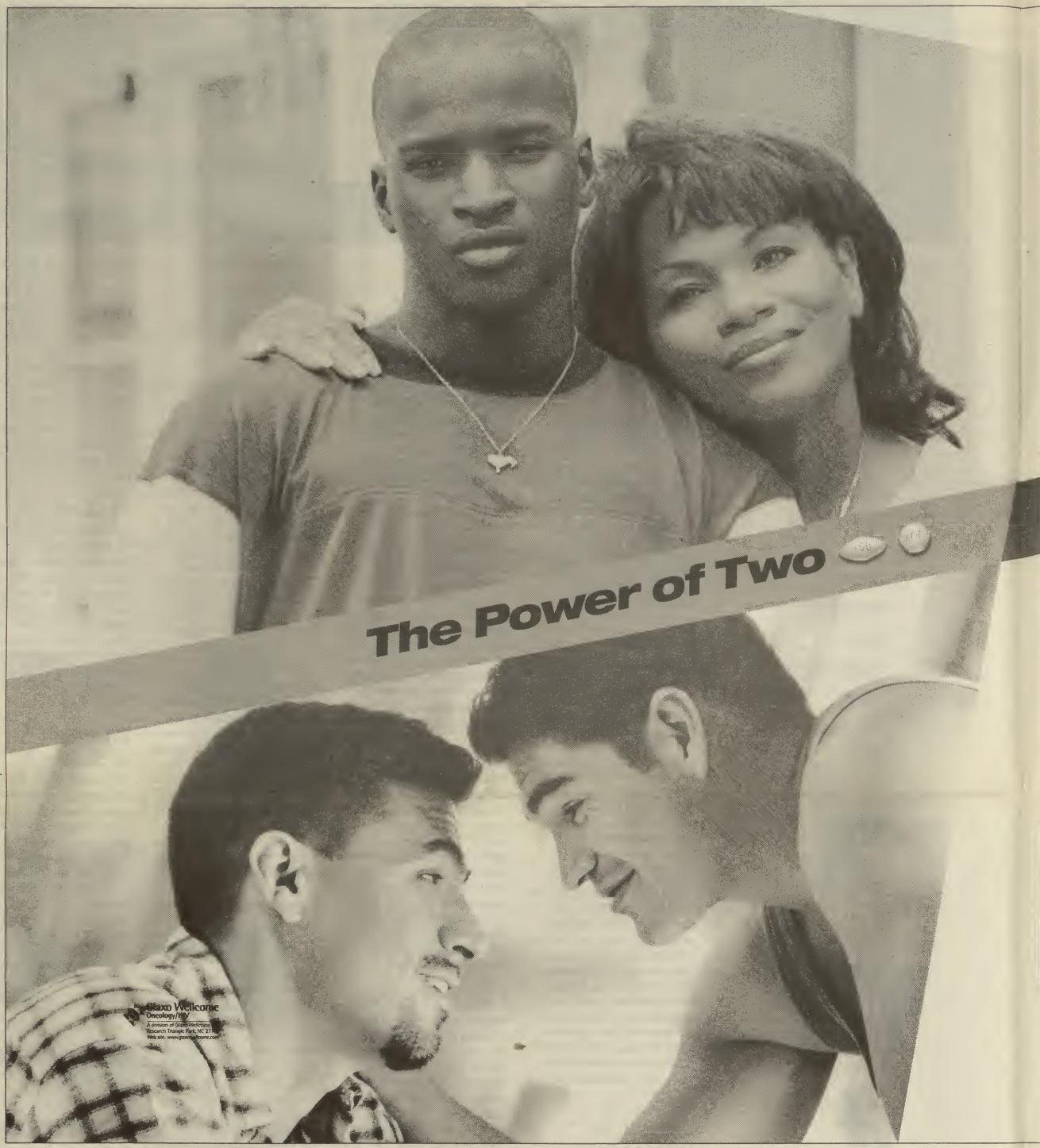
Write:
mike@stopaids.org

Visit:
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STOP AIDS PROJECT



• Action

**BRIEF SUMMARY****COMBIVIR™ Tablets** (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOTYPATHY.

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING ZIDOVUDINE AND LAMIVUDINE (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

DESCRIPTION: There has been no clinical experience with COMBIVIR. See COMBIVIR, *Product Information*, for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative to EPIVIR® (lamivudine) 150 mg plus RETROVIR® 600 mg per day (divided dose) 2 mg (1.5 mg b.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing current therapy [zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)] to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cell/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years; 87% were male; 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus NRTI ^a * plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus NRTI ^a plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

^aAn investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated. Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be discontinued if any patient develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity.

Myopathy: Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Co-infection: In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated cirrhosis.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosage of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance <50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets).

Warnings for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients must continue to experience illness associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the main toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Co-administration of ganciclovir, interferon-alpha, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section for full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: **Carcinogenesis:**

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the maximum recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine administered orally at three times the separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after 28 days because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, several late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasias (fine non-metastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, oral squamous cell papillomas, and one squamous cell carcinoma) were found in animals with the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found in the lowest dose.

In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months), non-metastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

Mutagenicity: At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated mutagenicity (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mice) and 24 times (rat) the estimated mutagenicity of zidovudine.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses for 24 months. At the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumor incidence in other organs in either gender. These results indicate that zidovudine may have a carcinogenic effect on female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the highest dose level of zidovudine. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the highest dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Impairment of Fertility: **Lamivudine:** In a rat study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility or on conception rates.

Preparatory: Pregnancy Category C:

COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Reproductive Studies: Reproduction studies with zidovudine administered orally to pregnant female rabbits have shown no teratogenic effects in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area. The usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryotoxicity was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect at the orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

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The safety profile of Combivir should be the same as that of Epivir + Retrovir. The most frequent side effects associated with Epivir + Retrovir taken together are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose. People taking antiretroviral drugs, including lamivudine and zidovudine, should see their doctors regularly because serious problems have occurred in some patients. See important information about Combivir on the following page.

Combivir is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

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Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryotoxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in the rat of 1.2 times and in the rabbit of 12 times the human plasma concentrations. In one study in the dog, a dose of 100 mg/kg/day (the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours)), in an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in the experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg/day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis). No evidence of carcinogenicity was found in either study.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV to the infant.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers section of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (>5% Frequency) In Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	
Nausea	33%
Vomiting	18%
Anorexia	15%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	
Nervousness	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
Skin	
Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Fatty acid was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm ³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	6.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm ³)	0.4% (0)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (124)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (44)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (24)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.
ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

*Number of patients assessed.

†Preexisting laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

During Clinical Practice: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR, or a combination of these factors.

Aloppecia, erythema multiforme, hyperglycemia, lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis, seizures, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria, and vasculitis.

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets): There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overexposure of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, weakness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, 3'-azido-2',3'-deoxyuridylate (ZDV), is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,047,407, 4,818,538, 4,828,838, 4,724,232, 4,833,130, and 4,837,208.

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

References: 1. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus indinavir in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from Biochem Pharma Inc.

Laval, Quebec, Canada

September 1997/R-466

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New Leaf is funded through the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, AIDS Office, Commission on Aging, Mayor's Office of Community Development; MSSA; State of CA; grants including Academy of Friends, Horizons, Macy's, and Wells Fargo.

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by Eric M. Rose

The Sacramento chapter of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is offering a "no questions asked" reward for the safe return of two missing quilt panels that were stolen from a parked car late last year. The panels were stowed in a duffel bag in the trunk of the vehicle, when unknown vandals broke into the car in the south area of Sacramento and stole the bag on De-

cember 12.

The two 12-foot sections of the quilt were made by loved ones as memorials to those they had lost to AIDS. The panels can be identified by the control numbers 5096 and 2195, written on the corners.

"We are asking the Sacramento community for their help in recovering these quilts," said Patti Barcena, executive director of the Sacramento Chapter. "These quilts are priceless and have a great significance to those who

created them."

The Names Project is declining to give out the amount of the award, because, according to Michael Bonjourn, director of quilt operations, "If we did, then every piece would suddenly have a monetary value."

Anyone with information about the location of the missing quilts is urged to contact the Sacramento chapter's voice mail at (916) 484-5646, or the San Francisco chapter at (415) 882-5569. ▼

L.A. HRC raises \$170K honoring Coretta Scott King, Lorri Jean

by Karen Ocambo

A n unusual sense of political respect filled the room at the annual Human Rights Campaign awards dinner on Sunday, February 8 at the Universal Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. Eight hundred people gathered to honor local hero Lorri L. Jean, the executive director of the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, and Coretta Scott King, one of the world's most famous civil rights leaders, who delivered the keynote address and accepted HRC's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event raised an estimated \$170,000, and the presence of the widow of slain leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a gay and lesbian event in Los Angeles seemed to shout a resounding "Yes, we can" to the city's lingering rhetorical question "Can we all just get along?"

After King enjoyed a long standing ovation, she noted the hard work done by HRC executive director, Elizabeth Birch, and "my friend" Kerry Lobell, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, who also attended the dinner. HRC, King said, "has been a great champion" of social justice in America. "I have always felt that homophobic attitudes ... must be opposed by all Americans who believe in democracy."

King did not mention the Sacramento news conference held last August by her late husband's

niece, who announced that Dr. King would never have supported gay rights. Nor did she mention the Black Traditional Values Coalition, another anti-gay offshoot of Reverend Lou Sheldon's radical-right Traditional Values Coalition — which opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 but uses homophobia as a coalition-starter with conservative Black ministers.

But, echoing Hillary Clinton's "right-wing conspiracy," King did talk about the radical right as "the same folks" who stopped the passage of the gay Employment Non-Discrimination ACT (ENDA) and who are trying to squash affirmative action, which, she pointed out, also affects women and minority members of HRC.

And just as she, Rosa Parks, and other civil rights leaders have taken on the cause of gay rights through ENDA, she said gays should also stand in coalition with others who face discrimination.

"Conscience demands zero tolerance of persecution," she said. "All of us who oppose discrimination and support equal rights should stand together to resist every attempt to restrict civil rights in this country."

Hawaiian eyes

"I am a straight woman who cherishes the example Lorri provides for me," actress and Center board member Judith Light said in presenting Jean with HRC's Community Leadership Award. In her acceptance speech, Jean de-

fined and called for more leadership in the community.

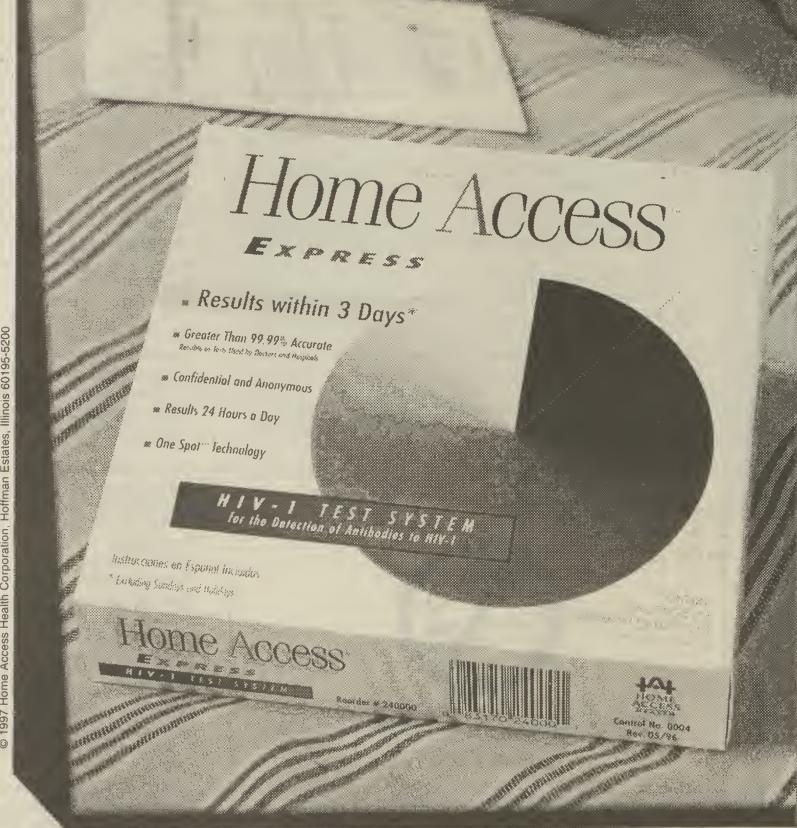
"My measure of success is how well I meet my own standards of leadership," Jean said, "and genuine leadership operates from a point of absolute integrity," which includes admitting when one falls short. Additionally, a leader is not one who drives people to achieve but inspires them "because, when they are inspired, they will drive themselves."

She accepted the honor on behalf of her center co-workers, saying, "I am getting recognized for all the work they have helped do."

HRC also premiered a new public service announcement produced by the gay Hollywood group "OUT There," featuring Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mother and HRC's National Coming Out Project spokesperson. Then, in an incredibly moving moment, DeGeneres introduced Al and Jane Nakatani, who lost two young gay sons to AIDS and another to violence in Hawaii. In memory of their sons, the Nakatanis are fighting to protect the Hawaii Constitution for the legal gay marriage victory expected this spring.

Birch announced that HRC is stepping up its involvement in Hawaii as the battle over gay marriages moves into electoral politics. HRC needs to raise \$1.129 million to defeat an anti-gay November ballot initiative that would nullify the expected legal marriage victory. ▼

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Anorexia homosexia?

by Bob Roeher

Thin is in (was it ever out?). From the gaunt of "heroin chic" to the cut of a pumped-up rat, advertising and entertainment feed us a constant barrage of body expectations. Just scan a club dance floor or the street and it seems that the gay community is buying into those messages more than anyone else. It's not just speculation; research backs it up. And this quest for a perfect body sometimes has grave health consequences.

"Survey studies of homosexual men have shown that they are more dissatisfied with their body weight and shape than heterosexual men and that they consider their physical appearance to be more important to their sense of self."

Daniel Carlat, M.D. and his associates wrote those words in a groundbreaking study published in the August issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. They concluded that anorexia and bulimia affect more than just insecure teenage girls. "Homosexuality/bisexuality is a risk factor for males," they found.

"You have to be in a culture that values slimness and also have an individual vulnerability to the disorder," says Dr. Arnold E. Anderson, head of the eating disorders program at the University of Iowa. He doesn't dismiss a genetic component, but concludes that social reinforcements are the dominant element.

Articles and advertisements in magazines targeted to young women are 10 times as likely to focus on weight loss as are those targeted to young men. But "pockets of males where weight loss or shape change become high priorities, like high school

wrestlers, models, or actors," often show 15-20 percent with eating disorders.

He says that society sends the false message: "If you will only be thin, or shaped in a classic way, you are going to be liked." But often achieving it is "a pseudo-solution to a lot of issues of self-esteem, social acceptance, and identity."

Eating disorders can cause great harm to your body. A National Institutes of Health pamphlet warns, "In patients with anorexia, starvation can damage vital organs such as the heart and brain. To protect itself, the body shifts into 'slow gear.'"

One of the first things to go is a man's sex drive. Andersen speculates that in some extreme instances this may be an example of internalized homophobia. The patient is not happy with their sexual orientation and is subconsciously fighting it, punishing his body in the process.

How gays differ

Drew Cronyn, a Manhattan doctor, studied 150 gay men and presented his findings two years ago at a meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

"Men tend to manifest eating disorders in much different ways than women," he says. "They don't tend to do the not eating, they more often tend to do the excessive working out."

But the language and the concepts they use is often the same as heterosexual women suffering from eating disorders. "It was very much they were doing this because they thought this was what men wanted of them."

Anderson believes that "one of the reasons why gays are overrepresented in males with eating disorders is probably because within the community of gay males there

is a higher value on slimness."

Cronyn's subjects "knew they had bodies that people noticed, but they felt that if they didn't spend three hours at the gym, it was hard for them to leave the house the next day because they felt they looked so bad. Or they would notice every single thing they ate. And if they ate an extra few grams of fat one day, the next day they would be obsessed about what they were eating."

One interesting association he found, perhaps because of his bias as a pediatrician, was that gay men who had participated in sports as a child, or who began working out when they were young, had a much lower likelihood of compulsion about body image.

Many gay men with eating disorders spoke of avoiding sports as a child. They had a "sense of differentness" and were "afraid they might throw like a sissy." Adolescent sexual experimentation was likewise delayed or was negative and guilt ridden. Cronyn concludes that many of them "don't have a socialization with their bodies."

Lesbians seem less vulnerable to eating disorders than either heterosexual women or gay men. Andersen points to socialization traits within that community as an explanation. Cronyn says, "Most studies show that women's criteria of attraction is not so much based on physical appearance as is men's."

What you can do

"Just starting to talk about it" is an important first step for Cronyn. He draws a parallel to gay youth who often believe they are alone. Most of the men he interviewed felt "I'm the only one in the world" who has this problem of body self-image.

You can assess your own risk for an eating disorder by asking yourself these simple questions. Have you lost significant weight on a diet? Do you engage in binge eating? Do you exercise out of control? Are you inducing vomiting or purging by other means? Anderson says that if you answer yes to any of the last three, you should seek a clinical evaluation.

He also urges people to break the wall of silence and speak about the issue with their friends who may be suffering from eating disorders. "If I see a person who is about to be run over by a truck, I would either yell or pull them back on the curb." Eating disorders are no different. "We need to do the right thing. It's how you do it, not whether you should do it."

The biological aspects of treating anorexia are similar for all people. That may include hormone treatment in advanced cases, and often weight training for males to build lean body mass and not just weight.

But counseling is important to get to the underlying issues and impart effective problem solving and coping strategies. The psychological aspects of eating disorders can differ greatly between genders.

"Too often," Anderson warns, because eating disorders are traditionally thought of as a female problem, "males are treated as if they are teenage females. And that turns them off. Plus, women may see them as lightening rods for all of the problematic men they have experienced in their past. Good treatment for eating disorders treats people individually." ▼



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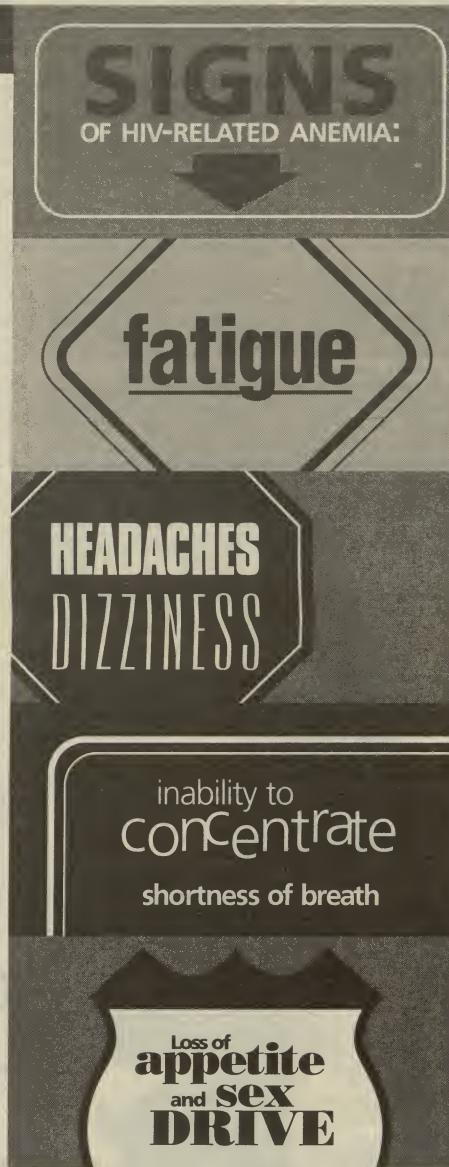
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SFAF memo

◀ page 1

but I'd like to discuss it with you before the committee gets together on January 22."

The SFAF board held its annual retreat the weekend of January 23-25. Although it is not known if directors evaluated Christen at that time, they are believed to have discussed the issue. Wisotzky said in a 1997 interview that in prior years Christen's salary was reviewed in January.

Gordon refused to reveal how much the executive director currently earns. "Her current salary is not available," he told the B.A.R. "As you know, the SFAF reports information through [annual federal Internal Revenue Service Form] 990s. We've been consistent in that."

The next 990 will probably be released this May and will already be out of date, covering only the fiscal year from July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

'Zero tolerance for bullshit'

Azzani has connections to the SFAF; from 1990 to 1995 she served on its board of directors and is credited with bringing Christen on board as SFAF's executive director in 1989. Last April, when Continuum HIV Day Services Executive Director William Glenn presented Azzani with the

James R. Harrison Award at the foundation's 10th annual Leadership Dinner, he praised her "zero tolerance for bullshit."

In an interview last Friday, February 13 with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Azzani was candid — often blunt — as she answered questions about the memo and talked about some of the issues around the SFAF. She was critical of the B.A.R. and staunchly defended Christen's salary and job performance. At one point Azzani lashed out, accusing the paper of contributing to divisiveness in the community at a time when "we should all be" focused on fighting the epidemic.

Azzani defended her use of data from the corporate world, and said she firmly believes nonprofits are businesses. "When you look at the talent, you need to understand that nonprofits have a significant role and just because it's a nonprofit doesn't mean it shouldn't have [excellent leadership]."

"My premise is I look at companies, nonprofits, the number of employees, and sizes of budgets," continued Azzani. "It's not just the AIDS service world, the market [used] is from for-profits, nonprofits, and healthcare." Determining compensation for executive directors also involves placing a value on a person's contribution. Given the salary, it's clear the SFAF board has determined a high value for Christen, despite



ACT UP/SF's Michael Bellefontaine: "It wouldn't matter if all the clients were being served."

the recent criticism. "Why shouldn't people in nonprofits make more money? Take education for example. If we'd invested in teachers, maybe [education] would be better," said Azzani.

She said many boards offer both a salary increase and a bonus as incentives, but did not say if that is the route SFAF's directors have gone regarding Christen's compensation. The main reason for giving a bonus is that it serves as an incentive. "I personally think

incentives are good, and it depends on what they [executive directors] are asked to do. It [the bonus] is becoming more and more common," Azzani said. A September 1997 *Chronicle of Philanthropy* article that Burke sent to Payne and Wisotzky stated bonuses are a one-time expense, so they don't permanently affect an agency's budget, which is one reason they are attractive to organizations.

Azzani defended her memo's claim that "some organizations are working to achieve pay equity for women as they still earn significantly less than male counterparts," in light of Christen's salary, which is higher than that earned by male directors of Bay Area ASOs and other larger ASOs in New York and Washington DC.

"Do I want to make less than my male counterparts? No," Azzani said. "It's becoming more and more what's happening with nonprofits and for-profits. There's nothing wrong with calling it [nonprofit] a business. They need to be well run."

Litter bugged

Azzani and Wisotzky were both surprised that the memo, along with accompanying data and the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* article, had been leaked to ACT UP/SF; the activist group is not affiliated with ACT UP/Golden Gate and has less than a dozen active members. A press release

from ACT UP/SF stated they want a "full explanation of the memo from the SFAF's board of directors."

It's doubtful the group will get what it wants. The foundation recently changed its procedures regarding public attendance and speaking at board meetings but it still has one of the most restrictive attendance policies of any local ASO (see sidebar, this page), requiring that people submit notification before the meeting. The board chair ultimately decides whether to invite the person to attend. Additionally, Christen and the foundation have restraining orders against members Michael Bellefontaine and Ronnie Burk. That court action was taken as the result of several outbursts that occurred in 1996, including the infamous cat litter incident where Burk showered Christen with used litter and kitty feces in a room full of PWAs who were attending a candidates forum the foundation sponsored.

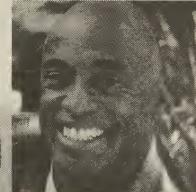
Last month Burk was sentenced to perform 25 hours of community service — one hour for every pound of litter he hurled on Christen. Charges against Bellefontaine and others were dismissed.

Smoke screen?

Bellefontaine told the B.A.R. that he is concerned about the amount of money paid to many

next page ▶

More than 70% of Viramune®-treated patients achieved undetectable viral loads with triple-combination therapy



COMMUNITY NEWS

SFAF starts letting a little sunshine in

by Cynthia Laird

It took over a year of activists complaining, but the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) has apparently started to listen to people living with HIV/AIDS, and has changed its policies and procedures for people to attend board meetings. The changes are minimal in some re-

spects; advance notice is still required and individuals have to be invited. However, given that some people believe the foundation is resistant to any change when it comes to accountability and accessibility, the new policy is welcome.

The biggest change is that people who want to attend a board meeting no longer have to provide a reason; requests need to be

made at least 24 hours in advance and can be done by telephone or in a letter. The old policy required at least 48 hours advance notice in writing, complete with the purpose for coming to the meeting.

Policy revisions have also been made for those who want to address the board. Advance notice needs to be given at least 48 hours in advance by phone or in writing. The topic and time needed

also must be provided. Finally, for those requests that are denied, the board chair will identify an alternative form of communication with the organization. This is entirely new.

Even with the changes, the SFAF board chair or executive committee has final authority over extending invitations to people, both with regard to attending meetings and making presentations.

The board has announced two other policy decisions, both of which are designed to get more community input. The directors will host a series of roundtable discussions throughout the year on specific topics. Dates and the subjects will be posted on their website when they have been determined. The board also plans to continue doing community outreach that involves directors going to different community groups or members of the public who "demonstrate an active, determined commitment to hasten the end of the pandemic and to promote the basic human rights and well-being of people affected by HIV disease," according to information on their website. The board has been doing such outreach for awhile; one of its more interesting meetings was with members of ACT UP/Golden Gate last summer.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who's pushing for legislation designed to expand the city's sunshine laws to nonprofits, told the B.A.R. that he's supportive of the changes made by SFAF's board. "I welcome any move toward more open meetings," he said.

The next regular board meeting will take place at the SFAF's office, 10 United Nations Plaza and will be held from 5:15 to 9 p.m. on March 25. The foundation's offices will be moving in April and people should call for the location of the May 27, June 24, and September 23 meetings. The November 17 meeting will take place on Tuesday because of the Thanksgiving holiday. ▼

SFAF memo

◀ previous page

ASO directors, not just Christen.

"It's a problem in the industry and people are not getting served. It wouldn't matter if all the clients were being served."

Bellefontaine said one problem was that professional fundraisers (such as Miller-Zechek, producers of the AIDS Walk, and Dan Pallotta, producer of the AIDS Ride) often make double-digit percentages of the money they raise, "and the executive director has to make more than the fundraiser."

He said he was annoyed by the secret memo, and that SFAF should just admit it pays its executive director a six-figure salary

that has historically increased — sometimes by as much as 10.9 percent — and move on.

"If they want to pay her \$500,000, great," he said. "Just be up front and say that."

He said SFAF's often-repeated claim that Christen is only criticized by a few misogynist gay men is a "friggin' smoke screen," and added that advocating for leaner salaries is not based on a hatred of women. "There are women living with AIDS" who are desperate for more services, he pointed out, "and they [at SFAF] serve a lot of women," as "the top people make \$1 million" in combined annual salaries.

"What are they [SFAF] hiding? People who are asking 'why' are framed as nuts by them. We shouldn't have to ask special per-

mission to go to board meetings. We shouldn't be debating if board meetings should be open or not," Bellefontaine said.

B.A.R. vendetta?

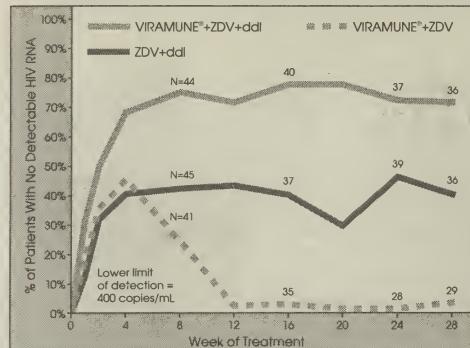
"Why should they [open up meetings] and have cat shit thrown on them?" Azzani asked. "People are killed at abortion clinics, and this reminds me of Operation Rescue."

Azzani said she doesn't understand why the SFAF — particularly Christen — is attacked with such regularity in the gay press, notably the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This is about a vendetta," she said. "Let's go after the virus. It just breaks my heart and I think the B.A.R. has contributed to this. I feel extremely saddened; it's a sad, sad day for all of us." ▶

Complete information is available on the SFAF's website (www.sfaf.org). The board liaison can be contacted at (415) 487-3053.

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CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE® IS CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ANY OF THE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN THE TABLET.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE®, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). VIRAMUNE® must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle/joint aches, or general malaise. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients).

Potentially Fatal Reactions: Patients who are discontinuing VIRAMUNE® should be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during the lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE® as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE® should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE®. Some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis, VIRAMUNE® administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE® treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on re-administration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE®, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Rifampin/Rifabutin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or rifabutin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Oral Contraceptives: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (other than hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE® is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE® has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE®. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE® are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE® therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contact.

Patients should be instructed that the most serious side effect of VIRAMUNE® is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE® occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in dosing period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle/joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE® orally as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE® may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE®.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation, Ames Salmonella assay, *in vitro* cell transformation assay, *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay (CHONGPR), cytogenetic assay using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line, and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE®.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a slight decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher than the recommended daily dose at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level doses in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE® should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Jamal Blair

March 31, 1960 – Nov. 3, 1997

Good-bye, brother, good-bye. A major "visual voice" has been silenced forever. Photographer Jamal Blair

passed away on Nov. 3, 1997, in Oakland, Calif. His photographic genius was known to all of us through his greeting cards and calendars, printed under the name of "Brothers."

It was Jamal's dream to photograph men of color in a positive and humanistic manner. He fought strongly against the stereotypical, well-endowed stud image favored by so many other photographers. His goal was to portray blacks, Hispanics, Asians, etc. as human beings, whose emotions ran the gamut from sadness to happiness, melancholy to glee.

Born Darius Jamal Blair in Mobile, Ala., he later chose to be known by his middle name. Jamal attended Texas Southern University and later the University of Houston, majoring in music. His keen interest in gospel music and the use of drums was apparent, even after he chose the camera as his final instrument.

Jamal Blair left us all too soon, at the young age of 37. Clearly at the peak of his artistic talents, his death was a shock to all who knew him. Jamal leaves us with photographic images that will continue to inspire and continue to speak. His work is sold locally at A Different Light, Alternate Cards and the Pleasure Chest. For further information write: Jamal Blair Foundation, Brothers, 1253 Kentucky Street, Mobile, AL 36605.

Dario Castelblanco Jr.
July 3, 1949 – Jan. 9, 1998

Dario Castelblanco Jr. passed away at the age of 49 on Friday, Jan. 9, after a long and courageous battle with AIDS.

Dario was born at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco. His family later moved to San Jose, but his heart always remained in his birthplace.

Dario attended San Jose City College, where he became student body president. He was also on the swim team and performed in several musicals, including *Man of La Mancha*. He graduated from SJCC with a business degree, and earned his living over the next 20 years at Security Pacific Bank and Bank of America as a customer service representative.

Dario was known for his large handlebar mustache, good looks, jovial laugh, and gentle nature. He had one of the biggest hearts that God ever gave to man. A mean thought or word never passed his lips. He will be greatly missed.

Dario died at his home in San Leandro, surrounded by those he loved and those who loved him. He is survived by his lover, Larry; sisters, Claire and Jackie; and brothers, Sean, Jim and Peter.

Dario was cremated by the Neptune Society. His ashes will be scattered near the San Francisco that he loved later this year.

Robert D. Strong
Aug. 27, 1956 – Jan. 31, 1998

Bob Strong was found dead of undetermined causes at his San Francisco workspace on Jan. 31. He had lived in SF and San Jose since 1990, and could often be found at popular dance clubs in the City, sporting his trademark attire of one black shoe and one white shoe.

A research scientist at Apple Computer for seven years, Bob was the holder of three patents in computer voice recognition technology. For the past several months, he had been conducting independent computer research in artificial intelligence, natural language, speech recognition, and speech synthesis.

A native of San Diego, Bob spent his early years in Southern California and Missouri. He graduated from Central College of Iowa and worked for several years for Cognitive Systems in New Haven, Conn., before moving to the Bay Area to work for Apple.

Bob is survived by his friend and former lover, Clay Eicher of New York; his grandmother in Missouri; and many friends in the Bay Area and Connecticut. A gathering in his memory will be held on Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco. Contributions in Bob's name may be made to the San Francisco Opera or to New Leaf Services. For more information, call Rusty at (415) 929-7945 or send e-mail to jzimman@aol.com.

Don Wahl
February 12, 1998

Don Wahl passed away at home Feb. 12 after a long bout with cancer. He is survived by his mother, 13 siblings, all residents of his native Nebraska, and his partner of 16 years, Jack Ogg.

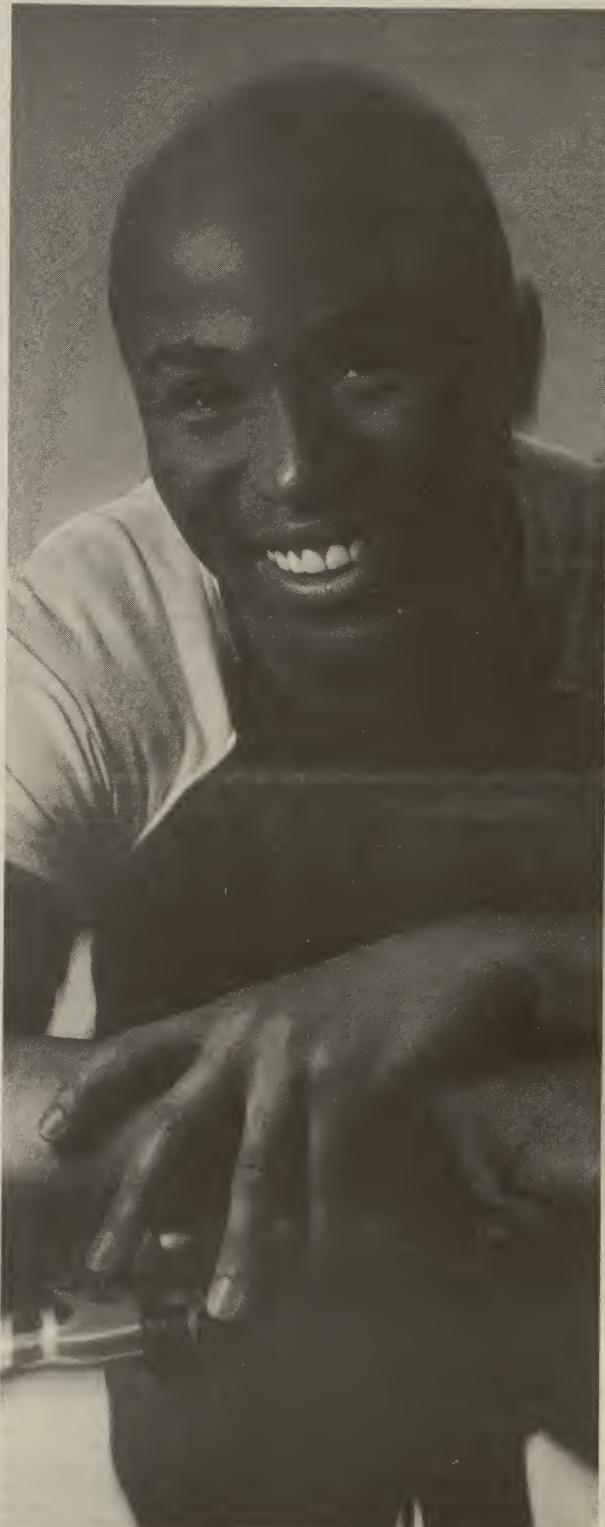
Don had lived in the Bay Area for nearly 30 years and will be greatly missed by his many friends and acquaintances. An informal memorial service has been planned for Saturday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m., at Chuck Wilcox's home at 2134 Market Street (top right-hand buzzer). Please RSVP by calling Jack at (415) 552-8914.

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.



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AEF grants back to \$500

by Cynthia Laird

The AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) board has announced that effective March 1, annual client grants will be going back to \$500, after one year where they were capped at \$400. The agency is able to raise the grants because of an additional \$275,000 it received in federal Ryan White CARE funds last Monday, February 9.

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council voted the money — unspent 1997 funds — should go to the emergency financial assistance service category. The money must be encumbered by the end of this month or the city will lose it, according to Department of Public Health AIDS Office staff.

Last month, AEF Board President Loren Berthelsen and Vice President Ken Turner said an increase in clients left AEF faced with a difficult decision. The board held a town hall meeting last December to get community feedback and acted on it by cutting service to clients who do not live in San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, and Marin counties. As a result of that, AEF's grants that people living with HIV/AIDS use to pay emergency needs — such as rent, utility, phone, and other bills — were able to be increased from \$400 to \$450.

"At the public forum, there was a strong feeling [that] people wanted to keep the money in the counties where the money was coming from," Turner said last month.

He also said the board's prior-

ity was getting the grants back up to \$500 per year, per client from the cut that was made a year ago. With many PWAs experiencing good health because of the new medical treatments, AEF saw requests dramatically increase.

The agency has no paid executive director, and just 9 percent of its \$1.7 million annual budget goes to administrative overhead. The organization has an excellent reputation and enjoys tremendous community support through volunteers and numerous benefits held annually. But the fundraisers have not brought in enough revenue to keep pace with the client increase; in 1997 AEF provided \$1.5 million in grants to 4,000 PWAs in 10 Bay Area counties.

No 'shell game' for AEF

When AEF cut services to clients in the outlying counties, Sonoma County was the most severely affected — and the board realized that. However, AEF determined that the outlying counties provided virtually no income to the agency and felt that had to change. Almost immediately after learning of its status, Sonoma County officials began meeting with AEF board members. A community meeting will be held this Wednesday, February 25 at the Sebastopol Community Center, on Morris Street off Route 12, at 7:15 p.m. Turner said recent meetings with representatives of Face to Face, an AIDS service organization (ASO), and members of the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS will likely result in good news at the forum.

The public meeting will be

real positive," predicted Turner.

If that is the case, part of the reason will be because of those initial meetings. Last week, Turner said Sonoma County was ready to allocate some of its CARE funds to the emergency financial assistance category that AEF falls under; however, it would be at the expense of other county services. AEF rejected the proposal immediately.

"I told them we would withdraw our request for proposal (RFP) if they played that shell game," Turner told the B.A.R.

He said AEF will not be a party to funding cuts for other vital needs services in Sonoma. AEF is requesting \$70,000 in CARE or other funding from Sonoma and then it will provide the rest of the money needed to serve Sonoma clients; last year \$120,000 was granted.

Apparently North Bay officials got the message, because Turner said he left with some of them saying they could supplement the RFP instead of reducing other AIDS service categories that receive CARE funding. "The county [indicated] they could find another \$70,000," said Turner, adding that there is nothing formal right now between the county and AEF. ▼

The Sonoma meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center; for information and directions call (707) 451-3600. For information about AEF services, call (415) 558-6999.

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Spectrum's new executive director starts today

by Ron Lazar

Paula J. Pilecki has been named the new executive director of Spectrum, Marin County's Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns. Pilecki, formerly a grants coordinator for the USC University Affiliated Program at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, begins her new role today (Thursday, February 19th).

Pilecki, who is currently completing her Master's thesis in Organizational Management at Antioch University, says, "One of the challenges of our future is to understand the diversity within what has typically been called the 'gay community' — which in fact is a conglomeration of communities. I think this will be a pivotal issue in our future, and intend to make myself available in the coming weeks, months, and years to listen to these communities in Marin, and to be an advocate for what they have to say."

Interim Executive Director John Kirkley, who has been serving in that capacity since last July and was the other final candidate for the position, gave his best wishes to Pilecki. Kirkley said, "I want to thank the community for its support of the agency during this transition period. It's been a pleasure to work with the gay and lesbian community here in Marin County. It is my hope that the community will welcome Paula and give her its full support as she leads Spectrum forward into the future."

Pilecki commented on Kirkley's

performance over the past six months, saying, "It's obvious that John's leadership as interim executive director has strengthened the organization during this transition time at Spectrum, and I congratulate and honor him for his work during this time period. In talking with members of the board and the community, it's clear that John has done a fantastic job helping Spectrum weather this difficult time. I can tell the entire Spectrum community is grateful to John for his work, and I personally want to thank him as well."

Spectrum's Board Chair Diane Amarillas said, "I am very pleased that Paula has accepted the position of executive director for Spectrum. With her vast experience, vision, and commitment, Paula will lead Spectrum into the 21st century in partnership with Marin's gay and lesbian community."

Amarillas will lead the board in a retreat this month to plan for the work that lies ahead. A date for a Spectrum Open House will be announced following the retreat, and at that time the community will have a chance to both hear from and speak to Pilecki and the board about the direction of Spectrum. Amarillas said, "I see exciting things happening in our community and at Spectrum in the next few years." ▼

Spectrum is open Monday through Thursday from Noon to 9 p.m. Call (415) 975-2680 or (415) 775-6999 for more information.

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They're out!

by Jim Provenzano

Baseball is corny. Baseball is patriotic. Softball is even sweeter, and cornier, and the gay teams all over this Bay Area are ready to step to the mound in one of America's favorite sport. This is the 22nd year for gay softball in our town, and it just keeps getting sweeter.

Ellie Schafer is one of hundreds of players. She plays for Wild Side West in Bernal Heights, usually as outfield or third base. She's played since high school in North Dakota and Colorado. She also played basketball. Of her coming out in the world of sports, she says, "It just kind of happened," and she's happy to report

a relatively good experience being a lesbian in sports. "I feel lucky after hearing some of the horror stories." She says she has "experienced some discrimination, but nothing like years ago."

This is the first gay league she's played in. She used to play on A Different Light's team, until it merged with another team. She also competed on a women's team in DC in a "general coed, but not specifically gay league."

With 16 games every Sunday for the women's division, and some 8 a.m. games on Sundays, it's going to be a long season. August will bring a lot of new competition, with new players and first-time European teams up against some of the champions from previous Gay Games.

The largest ever

Sara Lewinstein, the new commissioner for the Gay Softball League, is looking forward to "a spectacular season of up to 36 teams, the largest amount ever in GSL. We've also got the largest women's participation."

All the softball action starts March 1 at Moscone Field, where the opening ceremonies will include Mayor Willie "cyclists aren't voters" Brown throwing out the first ball to Gay Games Executive Director Scott Mandel. State Assemblywoman Carole Migden, Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz, and other celebrities will be there. Cheer SF, our local cheerleading team, will also be performing.

And what would softball be without hot dogs? That classic "don't ask what's inside" treat will be available for fans. Miller beer will also be a sponsor, so you'll have something to wash down those dogs.

The field conditions are excellent, says Lewinstein, who hopes to "bring back some home-style grass roots sporting events." Sounds like it's well on its way.

This year's crop of traveling teams will almost assuredly win games, and gold. The Gay Games has had the most participation ever in softball since its inception. Eight to ten teams from San Francisco alone are trekking to Amsterdam. There's an even balance of men's and women's team, Lewinstein said.



Sports Complex



Rick Gerhardt

Diamond dandies: The Cafe vs. Leticia's in a 1991 game.

ever since — straight, gay, women's, and men's championships teams. "It's just something I fell into." Having been a resident since he ran away from home in 1947, being gay took a long time to consider, until he became one of the pivotal people of gay sports in San Francisco.

One of the group activities that helped him was bowling, which he credits as "the largest community of sports in the gay community." He mentioned volleyball games in an open field near the Rose Garden of Golden Gate Park as the unlikely birthplace of Gay softball. When the people with the net didn't show up, they switched to a softball game and have been playing ever since.

She likes to consider the recent visits of an inexperienced German team that came to the Bay Area. "When they go back and say they played in a softball game in San Francisco, it spreads more goodwill. We've forgotten the fun aspects of this, which is playing ball and having fun."

Troy Bronstein will be coaching with Lewinstein. He played for many years and has gone to several Gay World Series with his teams. He started the Gay Softball League in San Diego in 1990, and has twice been to Gay Games, with his San Diego team in '96, and to the New York games with the San Francisco team.

He's planning on going to Amsterdam with the team, and thinks there will be formidable competition, mostly from other U.S. teams. "L.A. has always had a strong contingency," he says. "We pretty much dominated the U.S. It's gonna be interesting to see."

In the meantime, all softball athletes are getting ready for the season, and fans should be there to help it start off next month.

Jack "Irene" McGowan, long considered the godfather of gay softball in the Bay Area, coached some of the first gay-organized gay leagues as far back as 1974. Today, he coaches the Pendulum Pirates, the oldest gay softball team in the world.

McGowan loves to talk about the golden days when games "used to have thousands of people attending. Even Governor Brown threw out the first ball one year."

Growing up in an orphanage, the 60-year-old McGowan wasn't an athlete out of choice. "You were an athlete or you were nothing." He's been playing or coaching softball

since it also came to be a major source of fundraising and peaceful relations for the gay community. "Straights started to think of us in other ways away from the average stereotypes."

These days, he sees more focus on traveling to tournaments and the need to win. "Our leagues have become so competitive that inexperienced people who want to just play get shut out. Recreational division is too competitive now, which was originally supposed to be for inexperienced players."

Despite these problems, "they've done a real good job this year," he says of the organization of this year's season. "They have combined A & B teams. The remainder of that division will be B teams and what we call the 'recreational' division, which has lost its original meaning, because they're more competitive than they used to be. The women's divisions have won championships and are at the higher divisions."

Now it's open to all kinds of folks, but focuses on gay or lesbian participation. "People argued the fact that you don't have to be gay to play. My nephews aren't gay, but they play. You don't have to be gay to participate in the gay community." ▼

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Upcoming softball events include the Opening Ceremonies, next Sunday, March 1 at Moscone Field, Chestnut & Bay streets, beginning at 11 a.m.; and the Switch Hitters Ball — a dance party benefit held at the Tom Waddell House — on May 16. For more info, call the GSL hotline at (415) 436-0707. Members of the Gay Softball League will participate in a benefit for the GSL with an evening of bowling at Japantown Bowl, this Sunday, February 22. Tickets are \$10, with games at 11am and 2pm. For more info and for info on meeting at the next league meeting (415) 436-0707. Want to nominate someone for the Tom Waddell Cup, the award given out at every Closing Ceremonies to the person who has done the most for queer sports? Call Sara Lewinstein for info at (415) 285-0641. Nomination forms must be completed by April 1.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Brazilian bombshell



Emilinha Borba, the heiress apparent to Carmen Miranda, returns to the Bay Area to reign over the festivities during the Friends of Brazil's 30th anniversary carnival ball this Saturday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., \$25, at the Galleria in San Francisco. This international star of song is a well-known gay activist in her own country with a huge lesbian and gay following. For more information about the ball, call (415) 334-0106.

Brown Act

◀ page 1

Jesson said that would not be the case. In particular, council members wanted to know whether they could hold meetings in different locations as a means to get community involvement; Jason and Ackerman said that would not be a problem as long as the agendas were posted 72 hours in advance, as required under the act for regular meetings.

Jesson and Ackerman were of the opinion that the HPPC is not legally required to follow the Brown Act because of the way it was established in 1994 as the result of a grant requirement by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The HPPC's formation is unlike that of just about every other city board and commission, in that members are not appointed by elected officials, or even members of the Health Commission, who are appointed by the mayor. In issuing their opinion, however, Jason stated that it is unclear whether a court would find that the HPPC had been formally created by, or at the initiative of, the Board of Supervisors or the Health Commission.

"In light of that uncertainty, the most prudent course of action would be for the HPPC to comply with the Brown Act and the policy requirements of the Sunshine Ordinance," Jason's opinion stated.

The Bay Area Reporter prompted the discussion by filing a complaint with the City Attorney's office last December 12, alleging the HPPC violated the Brown Act at its December 11 meeting. At that meeting, members held an extensive discussion

around an issue during the public comment portion of the agenda. Under the Brown Act, items that are brought up during public comment can only be discussed briefly by the council; the body can ask questions, refer the matter to a committee, or place it on the agenda for possible action at a future meeting.

At last week's meeting, some councilmembers acknowledged they were fed up with having to deal with the issue when they felt the HPPC should be spending its time devoted to HIV prevention matters. Councilmember Jeff Polt balked when a reporter requested the council take a roll call vote on the Brown Act matter. "I say hell no to a roll call vote," said Polt.

Dredge Byung'chu Kang, a newcomer to the HPPC, related his experience as a co-chair of the Los Angeles Prevention Planning Council, which did follow the Brown Act. "For us, it was easy to follow. I think it is easy to comply. I think a lot of time we feared that, but at the same time I think it improved our process and made us more accountable," Byung'chu Kang said.

Community resident Kiki Whitlock, who has long been involved in HIV prevention efforts, particularly for the transgender community, urged the HPPC to follow the Brown Act, mainly because she said it would send a "goodwill gesture" to the community to have an open process.

After the council failed to pass two motions to put off voting on the matter, members heeded the advice of member Shawn O'Hearn, who urged them to get the vote over with instead of postponing the inevitable. "I prefer not to be in that camp and would rather not have a protracted battle," he said. ▼

ACT UP

◀ page 28

the thymus causing it to hypertrophy [grow]."

The youthful Krishna continues, "We observed greater than expected thymic index [bigger organ] in young [less than 39 years old] HIV-1 infected adults with mildly depressed CD4+ counts (300-500), and in all older HIV-1 infected adults. We thought we could possibly drive down viral burden in the lymph

tissue while simultaneously induce a signal to the thymus to hypertrophy." Komanduri echoes Grant in stressing that these are Phase I trials, meant to assess toxicity, but he is clearly animated by the potential.

"Ultimately," he says, "we would like to know how much function can be regained, whether thymic persistence [beyond adolescence] and function predict reconstitution, and can we find better ways to drive that?"

Studies like these can only further our understanding. ▼

Gay men killed in China Airlines crash after SF visit

by Cynthia Laird

Two gay men from Boston, one of whom had been working on assignment in San Francisco, were among the 203 people killed in the Monday, February 16 crash of a China Airlines jet near the Taipei Airport. A total of four Americans were among the victims, according to the U.S. State Department, which is continuing the grim task of making identifications.

According to information released by the employer of one of the gay men, 35-year-old Kenneth Cowan was an associate producer at WGBH-TV in Boston. He had been working on a segment of the station's popular *This Old House* program, showing the rehabilitation of a site on Danvers Street in

the Upper Castro, said Kate Halpern, promotion assistant for the Boston public television station.

"The production unit for *This Old House* was filming the new season," Halpern said.

Cowan's boyfriend, Chris Corey, 25, had flown to the city recently, and the couple left to go to Bali where Cowan was to scout for another production.

"Chris was a fitness trainer, and had recently written a children's book," Bevan Duffy, who works in the mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, told the B.A.R. "I just saw them the day before they left for Bali."

Cowan had been working on his television piece for the last several months.

Further information was unavailable at press time. ▼



Kenneth Cowan

Hayden bill includes gay families in Family Leave Act

by Marghe Covino

Legislation introduced by Senator Tom Hayden, D-Brentwood, would allow people with unmarried partners or siblings to take unpaid medical leave under California's Family Care and Medical Leave Act. Hayden introduced his bill, SB1506, to amend Government Code Section 12945.2, on February 6.

"Current laws exclude those who must take care of their unmarried partner or sibling during times of prolonged illness or hospitalization," Hayden said. "This can result in misrepresentation to an employer about the nature of a

relationship to get the necessary time off or being denied leave altogether."

Existing law allows parents and spouses to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave a year to care for a spouse or a child. SB1506 would add the words "sibling" and "person who depends on the employee for immediate care and support, who shares a common residence with the employee" to the list of those who would be allowed to take unpaid medical leave to care for another person during a serious illness.

The measure would:

- Apply only to large businesses with 50 or more employees;
- Not cost businesses any ad-

ditional dollars because employees would have unpaid leave, and could use accrued vacation time and other accumulated time off;

• Provide lower healthcare costs by allowing an unmarried partner or sibling to act as primary caregiver; and

• Save taxpayer dollars with less demand on home health services paid by Medi-Cal or other taxpayer subsidized health care.

Hayden said, "It simply lets people have their loved ones and primary caregivers with them when they are in their most serious time of need."

The bill will have its first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee within 30 days. ▼

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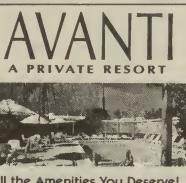
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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTION BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220244

The following person(s) are doing business as Barton Installation, 900 Potrero Ave., #7, San Francisco, CA 94110; Mark C. Barton, 900 Potrero Ave., #7, San Francisco, CA 94110. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 2-6-98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 26, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 1998.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTION BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220175

The following person(s) are doing business as Edegson, 808 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; William M. Rutherford, 808 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed William R. Rutherford. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 1998.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTION BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219889

The following person(s) are doing business as G.S. Delson, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114; Todd Grussing, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114; Benjamin F. Stanton IX, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on January 8, 1998. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed T. W. Grussing. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 8, 1998. Jan. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 1998.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTION BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220142

The following person(s) are doing business as Europe Vacations, 944 Market Street #821, San Francisco, CA 94102; Go West Tours, 944 Market Street #821, San Francisco, CA 94102. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on January 21, 1998. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Stephan Forget. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 1998.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTION BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220520

The following person(s) are doing business as Rumpelstilskin Cuts 473

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BAY AREA REPORTER

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 220664

The following person(s) are doing business as International Gifts, 1177 California St., Suite # 903, SF., CA 94108 The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Steve Conn, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 12, 1998.

Feb. 19, 26, March, 05, 12, 1998

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NO. 220664 The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pooponies, 11 Crestline Dr. # SF, CA 94131. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on 2-01-98. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Gay G. Schofield. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 3, 1998.

E08

Feb. 19, 26, March, 05, 12, 1998

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NO. 220664 The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Picnic People DBA Ann Bennett & Associates, 1177 California St., Ste. B SF., CA 94108 The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on 6-19-95. Signed Pamela Koeverer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County in San Francisco County on the date of Feb. 9, 1998.

Feb. 19, 26 March, 05, 12, 1998

E08

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NO. 220664 The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Picnic People DBA Ann Bennett & Associates, 1177 California St., Ste. B SF., CA 94108 The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on 6-19-95. Signed Pamela Koeverer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County in San Francisco County on the date of Feb. 9, 1998.

Feb. 19, 26 March, 05, 12, 1998

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Claire McNab outdoes herself in new *Carol Ashton* mystery; *Radu Lupu* and *Richard Goode* turn heads in Berkeley.

page 47, 45

The Nellie Olesons get down and dirty in 'Full Frontal Nellie.'

page 43

Jewelle Gomez faces the passage of time with hope and courage.

page 40



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 28 • No. 8 • 19 February 1998

BAY AREA REPORTER

Born iconoclasts



Elizabeth Ashley is Diana Vreeland in 'Full Gallop'

by Richard Dodds

Elizabeth Ashley's mind was at a full gallop and her mouth was in close pursuit. The actress could hardly finish a sentence before another thought would overtake her. "I wish you were half asleep," she said at the start of our conversation. "I really think that's the best way to interview me."

Caffeine had already done its trick before this early-morning telephone interview, but Ashley's voice pouring from the receiver wiped away any remaining cobwebs. She was on the phone from Florida to talk about the upcoming

San Francisco run of *Full Gallop*, the one-woman *tour de force* about fashion goddess Diana Vreeland. She also talked about her bad-girl reputation and the pleasures of middle-age, all in a Southern-fried

gown that is now doused with Diana Vreeland grandeur.

"She was kind of mah-vuh-lous," Ashley said of Vreeland, who edited *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue* magazines before being abruptly fired from *Vogue* in 1971. "She was wildly eccentric, but she was not remotely affected. She was this unloved, ugly duckling, least favorite child of

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Carol Rossignol

by Linnea Due

Kid stuff

Photographer
Rita Reed

Growing Up Gay: The Sorrows and Joys of Gay and Lesbian Adolescence, by Rita Reed; W.W. Norton, \$19.95

The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People, by Adam Mastoon; William Morrow, \$25

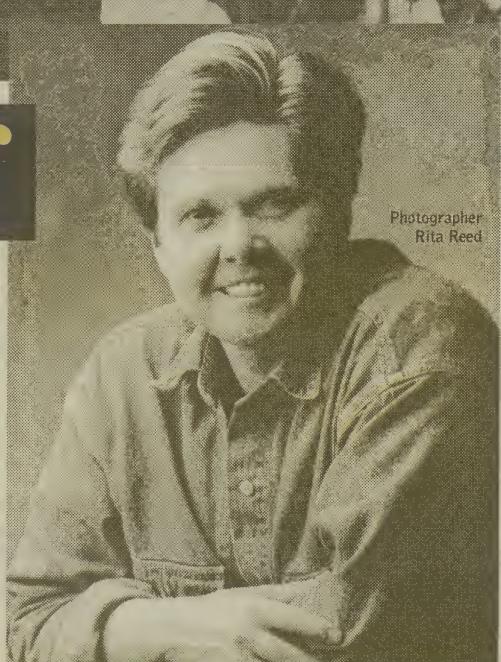
Two new photography books focusing on gay and lesbian youth came out recently from major publishers, but don't worry, we haven't yet crossed into glut territory — both are different as night and day. Minneapolis *Star Tribune* photojournalist Rita Reed invested several years and a lot of persuasive power to produce *Growing Up Gay: The Sorrows and Joys of Gay and Lesbian Adolescence*.

When Reed heard about the high suicide rates of gay youth, she was determined to produce a document that would make people care. "Seeing is believing," she told me when she was in the Bay Area on a tour a couple weeks ago. "Photography is a language that can bypass intellectual constraints and go right to the gut." Although it took months, she finally convinced her paper to spring for a series on gay and lesbian teens.

But the photographer and her writer partner (journalist Kurt Chandler) had trouble signing up subjects: two widely publicized gay murders occurred just as the project began, and boys were afraid they'd be targeted if their pictures appeared in the paper. The series finally did run in December 1992, and one girl, Amy Grahn, went on to become the first of two teens whose lives are followed in *Growing Up Gay*. As Reed continued to photograph Grahn for the book she now envisioned, she searched for a boy who would allow her the sort of access to his life a documentary journalist needs. Young Jamie Nabozny turned up; escaping a terrible school environment the details of which would soon become achingly well-known, 17-year-old

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Brian Peterson



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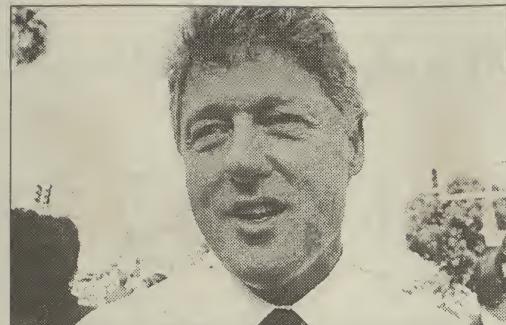
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by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

We were perusing the latest issue of *Ken Silverstein* and *Alexander Cockburn's* delightfully dishy *Counter-Punch* the other day and nearly choked to death on several amusing little stories the editors relate about our fearless leader, **Bill C.**

Seems back in '79 a functionary from the Native Forest Council was forced by circumstances beyond his control to beg for then-guv Bill's signature on some sort of hopeless policy. According to the forest wonk, a dinner was arranged at which Silly Billy was his usual model of probity and decorum. Scarcely were they seated, said *CP*, "before Bill was greeting a **pretty young waitress** in friendly fashion, putting his hand up her dress while announcing genially to the assembled company, 'This woman has the sweetest cunt in Little Rock.'"

CounterPunch also reports that back in '76, when Bill was toiling as state attorney general in Fayetteville, he and



Bill.

Oscar-caliber actress **Hillary** purchased a lovely home they vacated shortly thereafter when Arkansas' voters impelled their move to Little Rock. Instead of selling the property, however, Bill and Hillary decided they'd turn the house into a rental.

Unfortunately for Bill, several tenants of the Fayetteville digs have lived to tell their stories about Landlord Bill. According to *CP*, Clinton

"personally set the qualifications required to rent the property," which meant that most of the tenants were "young, attractive, and blonde." That's not all. Apparently Clinton would frequently show up on Saturday mornings to meet his potential tenants, and if they passed muster, he would then "proceed to spend the rest of the afternoon and evening together, exploring matters of mutual interest."

One of these nymphets was apparently unresponsive to Big Daddy's advances, in particular his "incessant gropings." Things got so bad for the poor dear that she eventually transferred to Texas A & M, where, according to *CP*, she "found men of greater subtlety and refinement."



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Lysinka!

Beyond impersonation

We've been awfully busy this week picking steaming chunks of cheese omelette off our face after reading the *New York Times* review of *Lysinka Is Harriet Craig!*, a parody of the infamous 1950 *Joan Crawford* vehicle. You may remember that we trashed the show in this column after seeing it in New York last September. But our cavalier disdain for Lysinka's latest star turn has come back to haunt us. Seems the *Times'* Ben Brantley has declared the show a hit, and, to add insult to injury, for all the reasons we thought it was a dud. "The production often feels like the giddy dialogue you have with movies like *Harriet Craig* when you come across them late at night on television," Brantley wrote of the drag *tour de force*, which features Lysinka (**John Epperson**) in his first speaking role. "The show pulls the film's barely hidden subtext out into the open, and then exaggerates it to the point of explosion."

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FILM

Dark elegy

'Mother and Son'

by Gary Morris

Filmmaking in cinema has its pitfalls. Filmmakers like Peter Greenaway and Derek Jarman built careers on bringing visual imagery familiar from Art 101 to the big screen, but seeing living tableaux from the canvases of Caravaggio or Franz Hals has done more to generate critical acclaim than ticket sales. As intriguing as such work can be, the strategies behind it make it unlikely that its creators can ever move beyond cult status. This is unfortunate in the case of another practitioner of this sort of hermetic art, Russian director Alexander Sokurov. His most recent dramatic feature, *Mother and Son* (1997), meticulously recreates the world of German Romanticism, specifically the landscapes of Caspar David Friedrich. But Sokurov, a disciple of Andre Tarkovsky, whose works have been banned in Russia, steers clear of both the campy kitsch of Jarman and the chilly perfection of Greenaway in this slow but achingly beautiful story of the decisive moment in the lives of two characters: the "son" of the title (Alexei Ananishov), who must tend to his mother (Gudrun, Geyer) on the last day of her life.

The opening credits roll over a black screen, but the soundtrack is alive with ghostly seagull cries, roaring ocean waves, and rushing winds, natural sounds that recur throughout the film and give a sense of life continuing past death. After the credits stop, another sound is introduced that adds a less reassuring rhythm — the labored breathing of the frail mother. Sokurov's visual distortions begin with the first shot, where the two characters embrace in a kind of inverted Pieta, with the strong son comforting the weak mother. The director uses a distorting lens to stretch their bodies across the frame, as if to show how pliable, how vulnerable the human body is. The world of the film is dominated by such im-

agery, with death the ultimate distortion of the body.

For reasons the film never explains, the mother lives in a house that seems far from civilization, in a meadow adjacent to a beach. Sokurov's camera records this lonely landscape in loving detail, sometimes dwarfing the characters as they move methodically down a path between giant sand dunes. The only sign of a world beyond this pair and their fleeting concerns is a faraway train, heard but barely glimpsed.

The narrative here is so simple it almost disappears within the minutiae of their relationship. They talk; she sleeps; he carries her through the sand dunes to see the ocean. He combs her hair; they talk about their dreams and their mutual past. She moves uneasily between moods of vague terror and stoic serenity. Their physical connection is the most palpable element in this ethereal landscape; in some scenes it has almost a sexual resonance, an all-encompassing hunger for life that can only be satisfied by their embrace. Sokurov's camera lingers to hypnotic effect on their slightest gestures, giving them a significance that transcends the physical.

In his previous film, *Whispering Pages* (1993), Sokurov resurrected a classic of Russian literature, *Crime and Punishment*, but shot it so perversely — through distorting lenses and in near-darkness — that it was almost impossible to figure out even simple things like what was going on, or who was doing what to whom. *Mother and Son* is shot mostly in daylight, with the characters and "action" easily discernible, but it's clearly the work of the same man. The visual distortions, trance-like pace, and painterly beauty of the previous film are used to even greater effect here.

In spite of the allusions to classical painting, the connection to Greenaway, Jarman, et al., is ultimately specious; Stan Brakhage might be a better choice. Like Brakhage, Sokurov alters the imagery by distorting the very



Alexei Ananishov

process of filmmaking. In *Mother and Son* he used special lenses, distorting mirrors placed on the sides of the camera, and painted glass placed directly in front of the lens to create his sweet, sad, soft-focus world. As the director told an interviewer, "I destroy real nature and create my own."

Sokurov's filmography is littered with terminal imagery, titles like *Days of Eclipse, And Nothing More*, and no less than six different works with the word "elegy" in the title. *Mother and Son* is also an elegy, not only for the physical death of the mother, but for the end of Russia that in her terror and serenity she obviously represents. ▼

Mother and Son plays February 20-26 at the Castro Theatre. Call 621-6120 for information.

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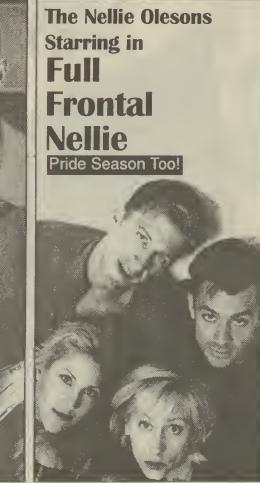
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The next generation

by Jewelle Gomez

t was *Star Trek: The Next Generation* that tipped me off that I'd slid over into my middle years. Like thousands of others who grew up on the original *Star Trek*, I saw the series as a microcosm of our flawed existence, one that coupled hope with a challenge to the authority figures who'd made such a mess of things.

With the arrival of *ST:TNG*, however, my mortality was suddenly made manifest: by the time the new Enterprise was whacked across its bottom with a bottle of champagne, all the characters of my generation were assuredly dead. Hope and challenge could not have long to go.

Movies held little comfort. The passage of time was underscored by the appearance of the descendants of Kirk Douglas, Melvin Van Peebles, Lloyd Bridges, Donald Sutherland, Martin Sheen, and Tippi Hedren. New generations of actors oozed from casting offices, reminding us just how unpopular birth control has been. And I can't help feeling old when I see them on the screen.

My fixation must have something to do with growing up during the Golden Age of television and with being a black lesbian (visual representation implies legitimacy). Dispelling invisibility has been the prime directive for lesbian feminists for decades. Seeing the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War on television made them real for Baby Boomers. Right or wrong, media's virtual reality became the gauge of our



Jewelle Gomez

actual reality somewhere in the '80s, just as I cut back on watching so much TV.

The writing world is able to sustain a broad vision that includes a much wider range of life forms than visual media. Even surveying something as homogenous as a bestseller list provides an infinitely larger array of character types than would either prime-time television or a list of top ten movies. And with books you get the writers, too. Their age isn't an obstacle. Readers and critics can enjoy charting the maturation of Toni Morrison, Dorothy Allison, or Walter Mosley from their earliest works to their latest. Unlike female television news anchors, novelists don't get too gray or wrinkled to be taken seriously as professionals.

Except for strained eyesight and arthritic fingers, maturity has worked in my favor as a writer. After observing others for 49 years, I now notice specifics about people, not just the categories they're in or their relationship to me. Consequently, I think I create better characters on paper, ones who wrestle with both the mundane and the sublime. In my earlier work, seemingly, characters only had time for the sublime.

Because I have lived long enough to see the triumphs of several movements, I've also lived long enough to be suspicious of the results of our successes. The remaining and maybe hardest

struggle is probably the same one that faced our parents and theirs before them: to resist feeling satisfied with what we've accomplished and to avoid resenting the next generation for passing us by, stepping over everything we've created. It shouldn't frighten me that as I watched Ellen coming out on television I realized I was old enough to be her mother. She had the opportunity to make that history because of the history my generation made before her, whether she knows it or not.

I try not to be disheartened that young lesbian writers make a beeline for corporate publishing conglomerates, as if feminist publishers died out with the mastodon. The most significant thing for me to keep in mind is not their race to be assimilated into the mainstream, but the fact that independent publishers have not died out. There may be fewer of them, but because some of us haven't given up, feminist presses like Aunt Lute and Firebrand support my work, as well as that of the next generation of writers.

In youth we're unable to see ourselves in relationship to anything other than our peers — that's why revolution seems easy. Can I revere history and at the same time hold on to that questioning of the status quo that framed my youth? *Star Trek Voyager* restored my equilibrium — there aren't any children on board, and it has a woman captain who used to be Mrs. Columbo. This crew is lost in the space/time continuum, giving the adventures a freshness and challenge I understand. The chain of command is linked as much by ability and team spirit as by military title. "Question Authority," one of my favorite slogans 30 years ago, remains my credo today, even when it looks like Authority R Us. ▼

Jewelle Gomez is the author of several collections of poetry and a new collection of short stories, *Don't Explain*.

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Rainy days and Felder

'June Bride' extends, Black History Month continues at Josie's Cabaret

by Deborah Peifer

I have played Tina Turner's "I Can't Stand the Rain" 27 times in a row, and it is still raining. So much for my fervent belief that Tina Turner is all-powerful. Clearly, we who love live performance must brave the elements and seek that which restores the spirits and illuminates the soul. A few laughs couldn't hurt. **Sara Felder's** *June Bride* leaps to mind as an extraordinarily life-affirming choice, one well worth a drenching. I was there on opening night, to laugh and cry while being amazed at Felder's astonishing dexterity with machetes, rings, boxes, and a crystal ball. Felder can get an honest and hearty laugh out of boiled chicken and overcooked vegetables, and how often does that happen? This "tale of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding, only with a little more juggling" runs at A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa at Florida, through March 8. Call 399-1809 for tickets.

If you feel like singing

I had a chance to speak with Brent St. Claire who, along with Don Spezziale, created the character of "Victor Dupree, America's Dandiest Negro Singer." St. Claire began his journey with research on Paris in the '20s, "the one place," he explains, "where blacks were welcome. The first were black veterans of World War I, who visited Paris and began playing jazz in the nightclubs. Parisians loved the music." They also, much to the distress of white Americans, treated African-Americans as human beings. This notion of equality frustrated white Americans, but their racism infuriated the French. St. Claire continues: "Some Parisians started beating up white Americans on sight because of their presumed discriminatory attitude toward blacks."



Curtain Up!

St. Claire was as fascinated by the sociology of the period as he was enthralled by the music. "There was a whole community of black artists and writers and performers living in Paris. Rather than perform one of these artists, I used various stories and characteristics of many performers to create Victor Dupree. In doing the research, I stumbled upon old sheet music from the time that combined sweet music with outrageous double entendre. We wrote the show around the songs."

Take your umbrella and head over to Josie's to be both entertained and educated about a fascinating, and mostly ignored, period of black history. A part of Josie's Black History Month program, "Victor Dupree" runs February 26-28. "Victor" will also appear at Josie's "Late Night Live" panel discussion on February 27 at 10 p.m. Call 861-7933 for reservations.

Cabaret diva **Andrea Marcovici** appears at Osher Marin JCC on February 21 and 22, bringing her glorious voice and theatrical skills to the best of the American songbook. Osher Marin JCC is located at 200 N. San Pedro Road in San Rafael. Call 479-2000 for tickets.

Audrey Smith, who combines a pinch of **Josephine Baker**, a dash of **Billie Holiday**, and a quarter cup of **Whoopi Goldberg** to create a unique talent, performs the music of **Mark Kennedy** at The Marsh, February 20-March 8. The Marsh is located at 1062 Valencia near 22nd. Call 826-5750 for information.

The Berkeley Richmond JCC presents the Thirteenth Annual Jewish Music Festival (March 1-8) at various venues around the Bay Area. The festivities begin with an early music concert, "Ensemble Parnassus: Salamone Rossi and the Jewish-Italian Renaissance," on March 1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Other programs include an evening of

Yiddish music with **Eleanor Reissa**, various Klezmer bands, and children's concerts. For information, and a complete listing of

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Elizabeth Ashley

◀ Arts cover

these terribly conventional beautiful people, so she invented herself by the time she was 10 years old. She was sort of a punk before there were punks."

In the play, which begins a six-week run at the Stage Door Theatre on February 26, the audience becomes a guest in Vreeland's New York apartment several weeks after her unexpected fall from power. As she considers her future, which includes an offer to become head of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, she regales her guests with memories, anecdotes, philosophies, and gossip. Jacqueline Kennedy, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, King Alfonso XIII of Spain, and Helena Rubenstein are among the unseen supporting cast Vreeland conjures as she shares her various creeds of life and fashion.

Mary Louise Wilson, who co-authored the play with Mark Hampton, was originally set to recreate her acclaimed New York performance on tour, but the chance to play the Lotte Lenya role in a Broadway revival of *Cabaret* won out over Vreeland. Ashley was tapped for the tour "posthaste," she said, and Wilson gave Ashley access to her realms of research so she could take a crash course in Vreeland.

Because she had not seen Wilson in *Full Gallop* during its New York run, Ashley headed to the Lincoln Center Library to watch a videotape of her predecessor's performance. "That's something I usually would never do," she said, "and it is rather daunting because I have never seen a more perfect match between actor and character."

Ashley had some trouble finding that match early in the show's run, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the second stop in a four-city tour that concludes in San Francisco. Part of the problem, she said, was the venue.

"When we opened in Stamford (Connecticut), I was in this marvelous little theater where I could look people in the eye. Well, I come to Florida and I'm in this pig of a theater, and there is this enormous orchestra pit that is not covered, and I can't see one single face in the audience. If you put a big black hole between an actor and an audience, it's like a giant paw is reaching into your throat and pulling the sound out and throwing it away. Finally, I did something I've only done once before in my life — I'm now wearing a tiny little radio mike so that I'm not having to put all my energy into pushing out volume. But everyone



Carlo Rossignoli

Elizabeth Ashley

wood debut in *The Carpetbaggers*, and was soon back on Broadway co-starring with Robert Redford in *Barefoot in the Park*. "I was the meat of the month," Ashley said, "so I was in *Vogue* and I saw Vreeland around. But I was this black leather-clad hippie kid in the Village with a lot of makeup and a lot of unctuous attitude riding around on the back of bad boys' motorcycles. So it was like, yeah, fashion, whatever."

Ashley wasn't interested in playing the celebrity game, and she had considerable trouble dealing with sudden success and its demands. What followed were marriages, career detours, adventures, sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll.

"My mother had said to me, 'Any little fool can get married. For God's sake, find out about life before you marry some sorry man.' Well, of course, I married absolutely everyone in the world, never took alimony, had to pay it twice, and now have retired to the hall of fame with a plaque. That's a dirty job I do not have to do again, pal."

"My youth exhausted me before I was done with it," she continued. "I spent decades as a night-stalking savage, and now nobody embraces late middle-age more gratefully than I. But I don't think true outlaws ever retire. I think a serious outlaw knows when the time to get on that motorcycle is past you, and then what one does is work on the minds of people in very perverse ways."

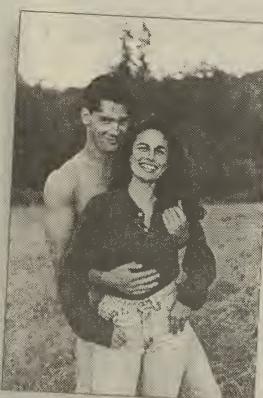
Ashley chronicled the early part of her life in the 1978 eye-opening memoir *Actress: Postcards From the Road*. "For years," Ashley said, "people have said 'when are you going to do the next book?' which is very flattering, but the answer has always been when the statute of limitations runs out. And they think I'm joking. If they only knew."

If it sometimes seems that Ashley's personal life has overshadowed her work, she has had her share of notable stage and screen achievements. High on the list was her Maggie in the 1974 Broadway revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, a performance that Tennessee Williams often cited as one of his favorites in the role. Williams made her promise that one day she would play the aging moving star in *Sweet Bird of Youth*, and that day is close at hand. After *Full Gallop* closes in San Francisco, Ashley reports to the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, to begin rehearsals on *Sweet Bird of Youth*. "I'm of an age now," she growled, "where I had better do it fast."

But Ashley figures she'll be back to the play *Full Gallop* in the future. "It's something I can go and do anywhere, anytime," said the actress, who likes life on the road.

"I live a life for five to seven years and then I scorch it, I burn it and move on to some other life. So I guess about six or seven lifetimes ago, when I was a young starlet and I married a movie star [George Peppard], I became at age 24 a Beverly Hills housewife — and if you don't think that's a stitch — but one of the best escapes I ever made was when I escaped from Beverly Hills."

Ashley doesn't like to call any place home, but if she must it's New York, the city that never sleeps. "Life to me is a little bit like a spectator sport," Ashley said, "and I'm a great watcher. I'd rather watch football, but if there's no football, I'll watch life." ▼

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Full Gallop runs February 26 through April 5 at the Stage Door Theatre. Tickets (\$30 and \$55) are available through BASS (776-1999).

THEATRE

Foul fare

Nellie Olesons: new high in low taste

by Richard Dodds

Ah, the refreshing stench of taste gone bad. The Nellie Olesons want to make you laugh with their jokes about snuff films and the way deaf people talk, but at a recent performance by the group at the New Conservatory Theatre, the laughs had their rivals in silence and groans.

The New York-based gay comedy quartet is offering *Full Frontal Nellie*, its latest collection of proudly tasteless sketches, at NCT through February 28. In the 60-minute show, the group dashes through 27 short skits that try

very hard to push the envelope. Predictably, there are hits and misses, but the misses aren't necessarily due to subject matter. Call it wit, insight, or a new spin, but too often that thing that can have audiences laughing in spite of themselves is absent.

There are moments when the right ingredients fall into place. In one scene, for example, John Cantwell plays a gym queen who converses with an unseen friend. He dishes friends ("There's nothing worse than an anal scat queen") and diseases ("AIDS is so three years ago"). In another sketch, Nora Burns and Marissa Copeland play a pair of lesbian

mommies who read a post-feminist fairy tale with simultaneous translations into a fractured language. This is funny stuff, but only a few other scenes reach this level of humor.

The Nellie Olesons have previously performed at Josie's, and the looser atmosphere of a cabaret setting seems more appropriate for this material than a theatrical venue like NCT. ▼

Full Frontal Nellie continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through February 28. For tickets (\$12 and \$17) and information, call 861-8972.

The cast of *Full Frontal Nellie*

Nothing from nothing

Gary Oldham's 'Nil by Mouth'

by Robert Julian

Actors who turn to screenwriting or directing are not, by virtue of their thespian experience, guaranteed success. For every Robert Redford (*Ordinary People*, *Quiz Show*) there are three Kevin Spacey's (*Albino Alligator*). But Gary Oldman's debut as writer/director, *Nil by Mouth*, sets new lows in almost every cinematic category. *Nil by Mouth* is not simply uninteresting, it is unintelligible, too long, and morally and aesthetically offensive.

Oldman, a wonderful actor, bases his story on memories from his own childhood in a South London working-class family. He fashions an episodic story about Raymond (Ray Winstone) and Valerie (Kathy Burke) and their co-dependent alcoholic, abusive marriage. Valerie's extended family — drug-addicted brother, mother, and grandmother — complete the cast of central characters. Eric Clapton provides a relatively interesting original score, and cinematographer Ron Fortunato provides a colorful cinematic palate. But approximately 90 percent of the film takes place at night, and Fortunato's images of neon against black often leave the actors in complete darkness.

The director uses hand-held cameras to depict a life of seedy pubs, back alleys, and housing

projects. His characters get drunk, shoot heroin, snort cocaine, deal drugs, beat each other up, and destroy personal property. Midway through this exceedingly long 128 minutes, a drunken Raymond kicks and stomps his pregnant wife Kathy around the kitchen until she loses their baby.

Although I have no problem understanding the dialogue of Mike Leigh's films, I found most of the dialogue in this film virtually unintelligible. In addition to giving his characters indecipherable lower-class British dialects, Oldman overlays the characters' drunken chatter with extraneous sounds and simultaneous over-

lapping conversations. I did not understand more than five sentences in the first 15 minutes of this film, and I doubt any American viewer will do much better.

Oldman here is working even below the subterranean level of Greg Araki's *Doom Generation*. His characters are spiritually and morally bankrupt and, aside from depicting the misery of their lives, Oldman gives the audience nothing. The commercial run of this film will be measured in nanoseconds, and they will be more than it deserves. ▼

Nil by Mouth opens Friday, February 20 at the Lumiere.

Lim and Myles at SF Poetry Center

The Poetry Center at San Francisco State University will present an evening with poets Genny Lim and Eileen Myles (right) on Thursday, February 26 (7:30 p.m.) at ODC Performance Gallery. Genny Lim is a native San Franciscan poet, performer, and playwright. She is the author of a collection of poems, *Winter Place*, the children's book *Wings for Hoi Lo*, and was featured on the five-part PBS series *The United States of Poetry*. Eileen Myles is a veteran of New York's downtown poetry scene, has published *School of Fish* and *The Irony of the Leash*. ODC Performance Gallery is at 3153, 17th St. Admission is free. For more information, call 338-3132. ▼



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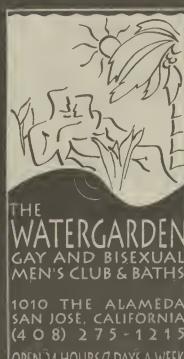
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Kid stuff

◀ Arts cover

Nabozny had fled from his home in Wisconsin to try to create a different reality for himself in Minneapolis.

Reed began photographing Nabozny several months before he began his famous court case against administrators at his junior high and high schools for permitting other students to beat and harass him again and again over a period of several years; Nabozny sustained injuries severe enough to require hospitalization. The case eventually resulted in a \$900,000 settlement for Nabozny and permanent heartburn for school administrators nationwide.

All of this is relegated to the epilogue, although Nabozny initiated his case during the time Reed was photographing him. "I thought it belonged in the epilogue," Reed says. "People think of him as some big activist, but I wanted to portray him as an ordinary kid. Remember, he was a runaway on the streets of Minneapolis." Reed's decision makes her book something of a strange bird, though it is consistent with Reed's original intent. Would that Reed had rethought her mission once Nabozny fell into her lap. She might have documented Nabozny's rocky road through the court system and the reactions of his teachers, administrators, and old schoolmates, a singular journey better-suited to the close-in lens of a documentary photographer than is a progression through the latter stages of adolescence.

Adam Mastoon undoubtedly had a much easier time finding the 40 young people who sat (or camped) for his book *The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People*. Reed would call Mastoon's a "celebratory here's who we are" book, while her book

demanded that she shadow her subjects, spending hours in video parlors, or at friends' houses, just hanging out, on the off-chance that something might happen that would advance the narrative. I'm afraid I can't see the advantage to Reed's more exhaustive task. She hopes readers will "recognize feelings that they had themselves as adolescents, whether they were gay or straight, and see how similar it is." Yet the vision shining from the faces of Mastoon's grand duke's mixture of subjects seems more likely to inspire identification and empathy.

Reed caught her subjects — each 17 when the shooting began — just at the point when they were moving from being isolated individuals to members of the gay and lesbian community, and watching that progress, shot by shot, is fascinating. Her skill in waiting for the perfect shot that tells the story is well demonstrated. Two photos in particular — of butch Grahn in street clothes, sitting on a bench a careful distance from bubbly, ponytailed basketball players, and of Nabozny walking way ahead of a too-wussy boyfriend he was soon to dump — portray complicated layers of heartbreak and courage.

Mastoon's portraits are far more studied evocations; the subjects wrote the accompanying text and provided an additional handwritten note printed below their

Growing Up Gay

The Sorrows and Joys of
Gay and Lesbian Adolescence

photographs. Sometimes the note and the text collide, with the short note more revelatory than the often formal text. And while Mastoon managed a good racial and orientation mix, he was overloaded with activists, so the stories become somewhat similar, with too many writers exhorting other teens to come out "and breathe!" It soon became clear that Mastoon had suggested themes for the text (or perhaps asked questions), and too many people had stuck with the program. I would have preferred a cacophony of voices expressing concerns not intended to relay a specific message.

Both books are valuable additions to the growing literature on gay and lesbian youth, and Reed's point is well-taken: photographs create a visceral experience, one as likely to neutralize ageism as heterosexism. If you've been wondering what adolescents are up to, you'll find these books provide some compelling answers. ▼

Rat pack

LA-based writer and performer Doug Motel brings his acclaimed solo show *Shiva Arms* to San Francisco for two nights, Friday and Saturday, February 27-28 at MCC/SF. The event is a benefit for the California Men's Gathering.

Shiva Arms is a funny and passionate work in which Motel embodies several denizens of a low-rent Hollywood apartment complex. The characters run the gamut, from an African-American paraplegic to a B-movie starlet, from salty "industry" veterans to the author's own aspiring-actor alter-ego. When tragedy strikes in their midst, this motley crew becomes a united community.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Scholarship Fund and Outreach Programs of the California Men's Gathering, a 20-year-old, statewide organization that provides a safe space for men — gay, straight, and otherwise identified.

Performances are at 8 p.m. at MCC (150 Eureka Street). Tickets (\$15 donation, sliding scale) are available at the door, or by calling (510) 654-4174. ▼



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MUSIC

Pointed pianism

Radu Lupu, Richard Goode

by Timothy Pfaff

Two of the day's top pianists, Radu Lupu and Richard Goode, visited Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall for recitals this month. The variable quality of their performances spoke as much to the many elements that go into concerts as to the current state of each musician's art.

Lupu's matinee recital on February 1 began promisingly with a thoroughly engaging romp through Schumann's *Faschingsschwank aus Wien* ("Carnival Jests from Vienna"), a piece the composer's pianist-wife Clara asked for so she'd have something "normal" to offer her audiences. Be that as it may, the piece is sufficiently different from Schumann's better known, altogether unique piano music that it's now one of his hardest to bring off. It was less the undeniable cogency of Lupu's interpretation than the sense of sheer relish in the playing that made his rendition so memorable.

When the famously odd, temperamental Lupu returned to the stage to perform Janacek's considerably more challenging sonata *From the Street*, he was confronted with an army of latecomers straggling into their seats. When the pianist tired of waiting for them to settle down for this tense, concentrated work, he stomped offstage growling, "I'll be back when you're ready." He never really came back. Lupu's traversal of the sonata offered nervous urgency but lacked cohesion, and it was compromised by an unaccountable number of finger slips.

Similarly, Bartok's *Out of Doors* suite emerged as a series of effects, some of them mightily impressive, but without causes. Most regrettably, Schubert's posthumous C-minor Sonata, D. 958 — Lupu *répertoire par excellence* — degenerated into a show of powerhouse pianism at a number of levels of remove from this haunting late masterwork. In fact, the most memorable thing about the Schubert was the ringing of a cell phone in the final movement.

No pianist of Lupu's stature and temperament should be asked to "deal" at that level. Music presenters who fret about dark times in the trade might consider that taking care of the artists who sell their tickets requires more than picking them up at the airport.

Richard Goode enjoys a more audience-proof level of musical absorption. He needed it February 12, when one of the foulest audiences in my recent experience — a noisy chorus of talkers, coughers, and candy-wrapper virtuosos — threatened to drown him out. But if Bach's C-minor Partita, BWV 826, seemed more throat-clearing than serious music-making, it did serve notice that Goode was settling in for one of the more engrossing programs of the season. The pianist's outings with Bach have always been hit and miss, and, indeed, it wasn't until the Partita's Rondeau that Goode really hit his stride.

The sheer verve of the remainder of the Partita unwittingly set the stage for an unabashedly playful reading of Beethoven's Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 31, No. 3. The performance, the high point of this recital, reminded one of the salient remark in Michael Steinberg's notes for Goode's celebrated recording of the complete

Beethoven sonatas: that Beethoven's music is fundamentally cheerful. As Goode's own recording attests, this sonata can bear a lot more weight than the pianist applied to it last week, but the spontaneous revelry of his playing yielded a captivating, self-justifying interpretation.

Goode also weighed in with a towering reading of Schumann's C-Major Fantasy, Op. 17. A master of musical architecture, the pianist explored this prismatically complicated piece with keen attention to its hairpin turns and quick changes of mood and meter. Great pianists have been confounded by the Fantasy's middle movement, whose themes can turn banal, but Goode lent rare coherence and conviction to these pages. The concluding movement emerged a study in musical gravity.

The pianist ended his program with exquisitely wrought readings of four Debussy preludes — "La terrasse des audiences du claire de



Richard Goode

lune," "La sérenade interrompue," "Des pas sur la neige," "Ondine" — and the composer's early *L'Isle joyeuse*. The uncommon delicacy and specificity of this music often hides the fact that it takes a powerhouse pianist to bring it off. Goode marshaled his musical might for performances of rapt intensity. ▶

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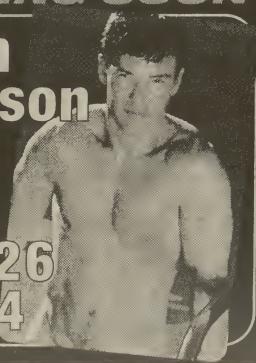


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Queer potboiler

by Timothy Pfaff

The House Gun by Nadine Gordimer; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$24

Someone's been shot. He's arrested. Duncan." With those words, Harald and Claudia Lindgard, whose names we do not yet know, get the news about their son that drives *The House Gun*, the new novel by Nadine Gordimer. It's not every novelist who can begin a story so baldly (the aforementioned happens on page two), but in the span of a mere three pages, the South African winner of the Booker and Nobel prizes has grabbed up her reader as surely as the jailers of her unnamed, post-apartheid South African city have incarcerated Duncan Lindgard.

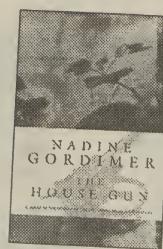
Gordimer's artistry in *The House Gun* is so deft she locks her readers into the sprung rhythm of the Lindgards' post-cataclysmic world. We learn at the same moment they do that their 27-year-old son — a confessed murderer whose deed alone tells them he is someone they don't know at all — was recently the lover of the man he killed. It's the last detail they glean about Duncan's crime. Though ultimately baffling to Harald and Claudia, Duncan's murderous act is a crime of passion that is ultimately as under-

standable to the reader as it is to Gordimer, who depicts the relationship between Duncan and Carl Jesperson with the cool clarity of a South African diamond.

Despite the story's queer plot twist, this is not a gay novel. Gordimer's real concerns are with the nature of violence, the psychic merger between murderer and victim, and, at a more personal level, the disintegration of a marriage, in this case Harald and Claudia's, through the destabilizing power of shame that comes with realizing that a loved one is now a murderer. On another level, *The House Gun* is a political novel that resonates with questions about the efficacy of addressing violence with violence (Gordimer points the "house gun" of the title at her fellow South Africans, who now apparently consider guns a necessary domestic appliance) and the role of an emerging gay consciousness in South Africa. The latter is underscored when Duncan's attorney, Hamilton Motsamai, declares there's "nothing special about men with men" — the new Constitution recognizes right of preference. That is the law."

It certainly is the law in Gordimer's book, in which she creates three of the most credible gay and bisexual characters in recent fiction. One of these characters is the journalist Nkulueko "Khulu" Dladla, a black man who

lives in the compound where Duncan lived at



the time of the murder.

Khulu, who cares deeply for his friend, as well as for Duncan's parents, and it is he alone who understands the murder in all its emotional dimensions. What Khulu understands is that Duncan loved Jesperson, a cad for whom the once-straight Duncan is at most a mere dalliance, and whose endless philandering ends when Duncan engages the house gun.

Any gay man who has ever been deeply hurt by another gay man will understand Duncan, a character you could pull off a police line-up, despite the fact that he scarcely appears in the book. "Why is Duncan not in the story?" Gordimer asks midway. Yet any gay man who has ever grappled with invisibility in society will understand how in Gordimer's cunning novel, Duncan is the story. The reader's one direct look into Duncan's soul comes in the novel's transfixing final pages, in writing too elevated to describe or divulge, except to say that the expression "heart's desire" will never sound the same again. ▶



Laurie Gallant

Mark Romyn and Philip Worman in *Waiting For Godot*.

Curtain Up!

◀ page 41

times, places and events, call (510)-848-0237.

Pocket Opera continues its 21st season with *Friedrich Von Flotow's Martha and Jacques Offenbach's Tales of Hoffman*. If you go to opera for the music, rather than the scenery and spectacle, this is the place for you. *Martha* plays February 22 at the Palace of the Legion of Honor and on February 28 at Temple Emanu-El, 2 Lake Street at Arguello. *Tales* runs March 1 at Temple Emanu-El and March 6 in Mountain View. Call 575-1102 for San Francisco venues; (650)-903-6000 for Mountain View.

Performances progressive

I'm not at all certain what "an audience interactive performance installation" might be, but you can find out and let us all know at The Mexterminator Project, created and performed by Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Roberto Sifuentes. The event takes place at Somar, 934 Brannan (between 9th and 10th Streets) through March 7. Call 621-7797 for tickets and information.

Tabula Rasa presents *The*

Blank Page, a dark comedy about Gen-Xers at work. Following each performance, Tabula Rasa will present four weeks of new works in its "Progressive Performances" series, with artists ranging from Afro Solo to hip-hop in various guises by The Black Dot Collective to solo work by Adam Larger. All the happenings take place from February 20 through March 14 at The Next Stage, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush at Gough. Call 339-8740 for information.

The Reduced *Shakespeare* Company comes to Marin Theatre Company through March 29 with two shows, *The Bible: The Complete Word of God* (abridged) and *The Complete History of America* (abridged). Filled with fast and funny physical humor, the company has been described as the Marx Brothers meet Monty Python. MTC is located at 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. Call 388-5208.

This and that

In *Golden Child*, acclaimed playwright David Henry Hwang (*M. Butterfly*, *F.O.B.*) explores the transformation of an entire culture as seen through the experiences of his ancestors. The show runs through March 15 at A.C.T.'s

page 49 ▶

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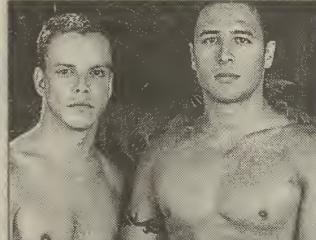
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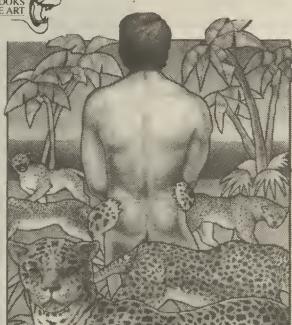
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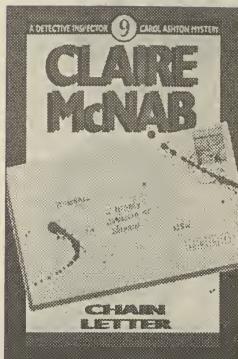
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BOOKS



The last detail

by Deborah Peifer

Chain Letter by Claire McNab; Naiad, \$11.95

If there is a single constant in this changing world, it is Claire McNab's extraordinary skill as a writer of detective fiction. Her latest Detective Carol Ashton mystery, *Chain Letter*, is suspenseful, funny, and more than a little terrifying. Though this is the ninth installment in the series, *Chain Letter* is hardly formulaic. McNab has fresh observations to make concerning the life of her lesbian detective, and the ways in which her professionalism may be a threat to her personal life. Those observations are seamlessly woven into a plot that is richly involved and features characters that come vibrantly to life on the page.

When a fellow cop is slaughtered, Carol and her minions drop everything to solve the murder. A second killing involving a seemingly unrelated character and an altogether different motive is given short shrift until a bizarre connection suggests that a serial killer is on the loose. Although the cops are most interested in avenging the murder of a fellow officer, they are forced to recognize that only by investigating all the crimes will they solve any of them.

McNab develops her plot with skill and a healthy dose of humor. The sub-plots — especially those concerning Carol's off and on romances — are deftly explored. *Chain Letter* is a worthy addition to this fine series, a mystery with loads of extras, one that you will read and re-read with pleasure. ▼

Great 'Escape'

by Deborah Peifer

The Escape Artist by Judith Katz; Firebrand, \$12.95

Let me start by saying that any writer who can make a first-person narrative suspenseful is a writer of considerable skill. When that same writer is able to create vivid characters while bringing a little-known past alive, then we're talking major talent. *The Escape Artist* is an astonishing novel — rich, deep, and wonderful — and with her pen, Judith Katz proves herself an artist.

The tale begins with the story of Sofia Teitelbaum, a 16-year-old Polish Jew whose naive parents decide to marry her to a traveling salesman, Tutsik Goldenberg. Tutsik is a salesmen, but what he really sells is women. Sofia is taken to Argentina, ostensibly to live happily ever after as Tutsik's wife, but in reality she ends up working at his sister's brothel in Buenos Aires. Trapped in a foreign land, with no possibility of escape, Sofia learns prostitution from the madam, Perle Goldenberg, a pious woman who is convinced that she has found justification for harlotry in her Bible studies. Sofia also learns that it is only with women that she feels sexually alive.

A parallel story, that of Hannah Lubarsky, a young woman who witnessed the slaughter of her entire village at the hands of Cossacks during a pogrom, provides a frightening look at the dangers of being Jewish in anti-Semitic Poland, as well as the perils of being female under patriarchy. Hannah becomes Hankus

and, disguised as a man, travels to Argentina to farm land purchased by the Rothschild family to create a new Jewish homeland in South America.

Trained in the arts of juggling, acrobatics, and magic, Hankus joins a group of performers in Buenos Aires and forgoes, for the moment, a life in rural Argentina for the thrills of performing in the big city. When the two meet, the result is magical.

Katz does an extraordinary job not only of creating her major characters but also the turn-of-the-century period, a time when possibilities for women were so restricted that passing as a man seemed the only way to achieve freedom. Her minor characters are drawn with equal care and are equally lively. She constructs an amazing underground world of pimps and murderers and thieves, all of whom struggle mightily for respectability.

The author uses language exquisitely to weave feelings and facts into amazing tapestries of life. That she is also able to find honest, although sometimes dark, laughs in Sofia's horrendous situation is a mark both of rare compassion and real artistry. Katz recreates the lives and times of Jews both in Europe and in the New World with admirable accuracy, providing all the information necessary to make the era come alive. *The Escape Artist* is a beautiful novel, one that recalls our history as lesbians who were and are everywhere. ▼

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2nd sweep for Guards

by Mister Marcus

The Inter-Club Fund's 32nd annual Motorcycle Awards show last Saturday night, Feb. 14, overflowed with nostalgia and pride. Emcees Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia and Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown quipped their way through almost 40 awards in various categories. It was a pleasure to see competent people perform the task without a drink in their hand, waving a cigarette, or being too vain to wear glasses so they could read the script properly!

The Golden Gate Guards MC picked up 10 statuettes for club events during 1997, including Best Weekend Run, Best Buddy Events, Best Club Beer Bust, Best People Events, Best Food, Best Special Event, Most Visible Club and Best Number in a Guest Night Show. Their own Jason Fontaine was named both Man of the Year and Corresponding Secretary of the Year.

This was the second year in a row that the Golden Gate Guards made a sweep of the major awards. Their acceptance speeches — short, crisp and to the point — highlighted their pride and surprise, as Road Captain Jack Goodall and President Andy Rose alternately trooped to the stage to pick up all the honors, except for Jason Fontaine's Man of the Year award.



Man of the Year Jason Fontaine (left) with Cam Solari, recipient of the Frank Benoit Participation Award. Jason was also named Corresponding Secretary of the Year.

ICF's board of directors also awarded Club Excellence awards to the Cal Eagles, Constantines, Defenders, Knights of Malta, GDIs and the Guards. Sentiment and appreciation were the order of the day when longtime club activist Cam Solari was given the Frank Benoit Participation Award and former Warlocks MC member Jim Conner received the Lifetime Achievement Award. A moment of silence was observed for Don Geist, former owner of Febe's and a veteran ICF supporter, and for other club members no longer with us. Geist was killed in an auto accident in Alabama just two weeks ago.

The entertainment was the best I've seen in quite a while. Keith Pruitt changed outfits no less than four times during the evening for two musical numbers and other onstage action. His "I Am What I Am" brought down the house. Cast members from *Dirty Little Show Tunes* certainly impressed the audience, and Charlie Pacheco's golden throat was well-received in two appearances. Accolades to all the individuals and groups involved — your musical presentations were stupendous!

A unique occurrence happened during the biking awards when Jerry Flick was named Buddy Rider of the Year and Mike Marrero took Rider of the Year honors. Both are independent bikers, and they're lovers besides!

The ICF weekend started with the Constantines' Mix 'n' Match beer bust at the Eagle on Friday. Immediately following the awards ceremony, the GDIs hosted the victory party at the Eagle, and on Sunday, the Golden Gate Guards hosted the victory brunch at Margie's on Polk Street to round out the weekend.

The 32nd awards show was one of the best in recent memory. The bike club leaders, club presidents and members did an outstanding job in all areas, and everyone seemed satisfied with the results of the voting. Almost a dozen members of the LOBOC MC (Long Beach/Orange County) and reps from the Los Angeles Warriors MC were in the audience, and appeared to be having a great time. The hard work of all the volunteers produced a very successful event. ICF President Tommy Thomas was beaming with pride throughout — and rightfully so!

Other winners: Best One-Day Event, Best Overnight Event and Best Bike Event: Cal Eagles; Best Enduro: GDIs; Best Guest Campsite: Sierra Pacific Rangers; Best Club Anniversary and Best Club Charity Event: Phoenix U/C; Best Individual Number in a Run Show and Best Group Number: Constantines MC; Best Non-Club Charity Event: Dore Alley Fair; Best Leather Contest: Mr. SF Leather; Best In-Town Leather Event (Non-Contest): Folsom Street Fair; Most Participative Biker: Lou Levesque and Bruce McCutcheon; Best Bar Anniversary: Daddy's; Most Supportive Current Titleholder: Gary Virginia; Most Supportive Past Leather Title Holder: Philip Turner; and Most Supportive Non-Title Holder: Donna Sachet. Congratulations to all the winners and to those who were nominated.

The Constantines' Mix 'n' Match beer bust Friday night at the Eagle was well-attended in spite of the inclement weather. There were some very weird match-ups thanks to this unique matching system and a goodly amount of laughs for those who got identical prizes. Since I couldn't get the complete list of the club's new officers at my deadline, it will come to you at a later date.

next page ►



Buddy Rider of the Year Jerry Flick (left) with Biker of the Year Mike Marrero at the ICF Motorcycle Awards Feb. 14.

Mister Marcus

Mister Marcus

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Feb. 19

After being disinherited to continue doing business at the Eagle, Mister S rebounds tonight with the grand opening of a leather shop at the Loading Dock. Check out the third supplement to their mammoth catalog, which now totals 282 pages. They've already sold almost 19,000 copies! ▼

Weekend, Feb. 20-22

Big leather weekend at the Cell Block in Chicago, with their three-day leather fest. Mr. Cell Block Leather Brian-Mark Conover passes the sash to a successor. I'll be judging the event, so you'll get the results soon! Meet and greet on Friday, leather brunch at Daddy's, and leather swap at the Cell Block. Contest Saturday night and victory beer bust on Sunday!

Knights of Malta beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 2100-2400, \$7.

Saturday, Feb. 21

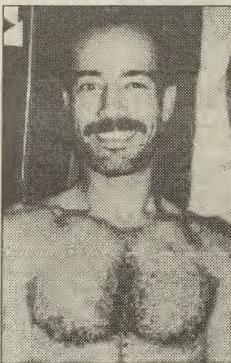
Empress Veronda Lanai passes her crown tonight, and if the voters give him the nod, Fred Lewis takes over from Jacques Michaels at the coronation at the GiftCenter Pavilion (888 Brannan at 8th St.) at 1800.

Dyke Daddy and Dyke Mommy Contest at the Eagle at 2000, with a \$7 beer bust, raffles, and an auction emceed by Skeeter Wildman and Daddy Irwin Kane. Produced by Ms. Golden Gate Leather Daddy Erin Kelley. Be there!

In Jacksonville, Florida, they're having the Mr. and Ms. Florida Leather festival, climaxing with the Mr./Ms. Leather contest next Saturday!

Sunday, Feb. 22

To some it's campy — to others a disgrace! Nevertheless, the annual trek to the Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma to honor the late Joshua Norton, the self-declared Emperor of San Francisco, leaves by bus



Mister Marcus

Egyptian-born Ali Shouieb won the Mr. March 1999 spot on the BCC at the Powerhouse Feb. 12.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Earlier in the week, the Mr. March Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse drew another wall-to-wall crowd. Those in attendance saw six contestants put through their paces while facing judges Mitch Pierce, Andy Rose and Andy Shore. A lot of guffaws and innuendo were heard from all quarters. The judges awarded the March 1999 spot to the coolest Egyptian dude this side of the Nile, Ali Shouieb, in his second try. The runner-up was Doug Harrison. Fun night! Mr. April will be chosen next Thursday, Feb. 26. Win \$100, passes to Blow Buddies and Leather Buddies, and at least momentary adulation!

All this took place while the popular Bears of San Francisco hosted their biggest crowd ever for International Bear Rendezvous, which climaxed with the International Mr. Bear contest on Sunday night. A British bear, Rod Savides, took the title this year and had the audience in a swoon. Donna Sachet would like to get to know Rod better! Read all about this ursine event in yet another Mister Marcus exclusive elsewhere in this paper! ▼

Curtain Up!

◀ page 46

Geary Theatre (415 Geary at Mason), prior to its Broadway opening in April. Call 749-2228 for tickets. If you bring along a canned tuna (water pack) or a box of breakfast cereal, you can pay what you want on February 19. Those tickets go on sale at 6 p.m. today at the Geary Box Office.

The Whistlares return to EXIT Theatre in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, perhaps the most accessible play of the absurdist canon, through March 9. EXIT Theatre is located at 156 Eddy Street. Call 673-3847.

Elizabeth Ashley, OK, the gorgeous, incredible, glorious Elizabeth Ashley, appears at the Stage Door Theatre in *Full Gallop*, the one-woman show about Diana Vreeland that knocked

'em dead in New York a couple seasons ago. *Full Gallop* opens February 26, and if the ticket prices seem a little out of your range, you can take a chance on winning a pair of seats at the Best of Broadway website bestofbroadway.com. Call BASS at 776-1999 for tickets.

Lisa Kron's new solo show, *2.5 Minute Ride*, opens for two performances, February 28 and March 1, at Osher Marin JCC, and then moves to Magic Theatre in Fort Mason for an extended run (March 3-21). Kron's visit to Auschwitz with her father, a Holocaust survivor, was the impetus for this exploration of her family and its history. Kron assures me that, despite its weighty subject matter, the show will definitely make people laugh. Call 479-2000 for tickets at Osher Marin; Magic Theatre's box office number is 646-0880. ▼

Monica Lewinsky
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Walter Dickhaut as Wittgenstein

Mars attacks

From the department of unlikely juxtapositions, multimedia theater wizard George Coates gives us *Wittgenstein: On Mars*, in which the Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein considers the ever-tantalizing possibility of life on the red planet.

Coates' music theater construction draws on Wittgenstein's own writings, combining them with tidbits from the burgeoning field of astrobiology and the prospect of an ever-expanding universe. Remember that meteorite fragment in Antarctica that may or may not be evidence of one-time bacterial life on Mars? That debate figures heavily in the piece.

It's a tall order, serving up arcane questions of science, language theory, and philosophy, and creating something inherently dramatic from them. If you know Coates' work, however, you know he mounts spectacles, mesmerizing conglomerations of scenery, music, stagecraft and slide projections. There is no 3-D imagery in *Wittgenstein*, unlike other recent Coates works, and that's okay with us, since those 3-D glasses prove cumbersome for those who already wear conventional spectacles. But the Coates company does provide plenty of projected backgrounds, sensuous as usual: here, the polar region superimposed on Mars; there, a portrait of Wittgenstein's sister as realized by Viennese artist Gustav Klimt.

If it all doesn't quite hang together, and there are stretches in which the dramatic tension, if it ever existed, collapses—well, that's where the experiment in experimental theater comes in. Wittgenstein was a closeted homosexual who nonetheless had intimate relationships with younger men; Coates ignores this side of his subject (Derek Jarman did not—see his film *Wittgenstein*.) But Coates fans will enjoy the show, the magic lantern theater we've come to expect from him. ▼

Wittgenstein: On Mars continues through February 28 at George Coates Performance Works, 110 McAllister St. Tickets are \$24-36. Call 392-4400.

Fri 20

Defending the Caveman

Rob Becker's solo show explores the gender gap. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/22; call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$15.50-46.50. Golden Gate Theater. 776-1999.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 3/1. \$16-22. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders

Former US Surgeon General speaks at 2pm. Reserve seating passes avail. Free. SFSU, McKenna Theatre, Creative Arts Bldg. 338-2444.

Ellen Forney

Reads from *I Was 7 in 75*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$10. 9,10,8:11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

I Love Lezzie

Comedy revue features Peggy Critz, Susan Dambroff, more. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/21. \$11-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Bridget Schwartz. Tonight: "Oscar Predictions." Uncle Mame, Scott Capurro, more. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together screen *My Beautiful Laundrette*. \$2. 7pm. Call for location. 675-0201.

The Mexterminator Project

Guillermo Gómez Peña directs this part Tex-Mex rave, part end-of-the-century freak-show interactive performance installation. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7. \$15-\$20. SOMAR, 934 Brannan. 621-7797.

Nora

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18-\$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran, Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Our Gospel

Tremendous Arts Cooperative and Modus Ensemble premiere new dance/theater work. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/22. \$12.50-16.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Potpourri Noire

Showcase featuring Dee Dee Russell, Robert Henry Johnson, Julia Jackson, more, part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Perf. Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Potrebbe Dance Project

Original choreography by Chris Black, Diane Shields, and Katie Moreman. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/1. \$10. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Sat 21

Shanti Art Show

"A Celebration of Art and Life" show and reception for work by Bay area artists with HIV/AIDS. Also poetry, performance work, more. 5pm-8pm. Shanti, 1546 Market. 487-4743.

Sat 21

All Out Cast

Improv comedy with a queer twist, no cover. 8pm. Bean's on Broadway, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. (650) 369-3335.

Cat Show

Presented by Cat Faeries, over 300 pedigrees vying for the blue ribbon. 10am-5pm thru Sun. \$5. Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. 585-6400.

Fiesta de Carnaval

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano, group for Spanish-speaking gay men and friends, holds potluck. Call for info. 863-7087.

Jem Cohen

America's pre-eminent Super-8 filmmaker screens his "Musical documents." 8:30pm. \$5. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

LAVA Awards

Benefit dinner/dance for "A Fund of Our Own." Reception, 6pm; dinner, 7pm. \$125. Fairmont Hotel, California & Mason. (510) 843-8048.

Performance Music

Rhodhessa Jones and Idris Ackamoor present excerpts from new and past works. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Rhapsodies in Black:

Art of the Harlem Renaissance multimedia exhibition, thru 3/8. \$7 + \$2.50 surcharge. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurors Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min'm. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-2001.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Amy Boyd, Karla Carimony, Lisa Geduldig. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sex Tour

8th annual SF Zoo Valentine's Day Sex Tour: frank talk about animal sex. Sat. & Sun. at 9am & 3pm thru 2/22. \$35. SF Zoo. 753-7165.

Sun 22

Joy Ride

Campo Santo presents Greg Sarris' play: three mixed-race Portuguese brothers. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/1. \$9-14. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Live Jazz

Free admission. 8pm. Josie's



Model Kathy Fenker is one of the "works" on display for Art Groove at 1015 Folsom. See Tuesday.

James D. Phelan Art Award

In Photography, exhibition by winners David Berg, Kim Brown, Erin O'Neill. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/28. San Francisco Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Mardi Gras Party

For the SoMa area, hosted by the Eagle, Hole in the Wall, Lone Star Saloon, My Place, and Powerhouse. Proceeds go to AIDS charities. 6pm-10pm. \$8.

Nocturnal Emissions

New work by Timothy Cummings, with "A Thin Line," new work by Ted Julian Arnold. Thru 2/28. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering Conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraelen Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Then and Now

Terrain's tenth anniversary features work by 39 artists, incl. William S. Burroughs, Carmen Lomas Garza, Andres Serrano, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/14. Terrain, 165 Jessie Street, 2nd Floor. 543-0656.

Women in Printing

And Publishing in California: 1850-1940, exhibit of pioneering women. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/18. \$3. Calif. Historical Society Mus'm, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x14.

Wed 23

Roy DeCarava

Retrospective exhibit of works by Harlem jazz photographer, thru 3/14. \$8. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Unthinkable Tenderness:

The Art of Human Rights, presented by the SFSU Art Dept. Gallery and Amnesty Int'l. Mon.-Sat. thru 3/21. 12pm-4pm. SFSU A&I Bldg., Room 238. 338-6535.

Thurs 24

Alchemy

A new multimedia work by brothers Lyle Ashton Harris and Thomas Allen Harris, thru 3/14. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Designs for Dance

Exhibit of costume designs and set models. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/9. Free. SF Per. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Essence of Style:

Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties exhibit, thru 9/6. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 377-8801.

Fetish

Group show explores relationship of artist and fetish, thru 3/6. Art Gallery, Cesar Chavez Student Ctr., SFSU. 338-2580.

Five Points of View

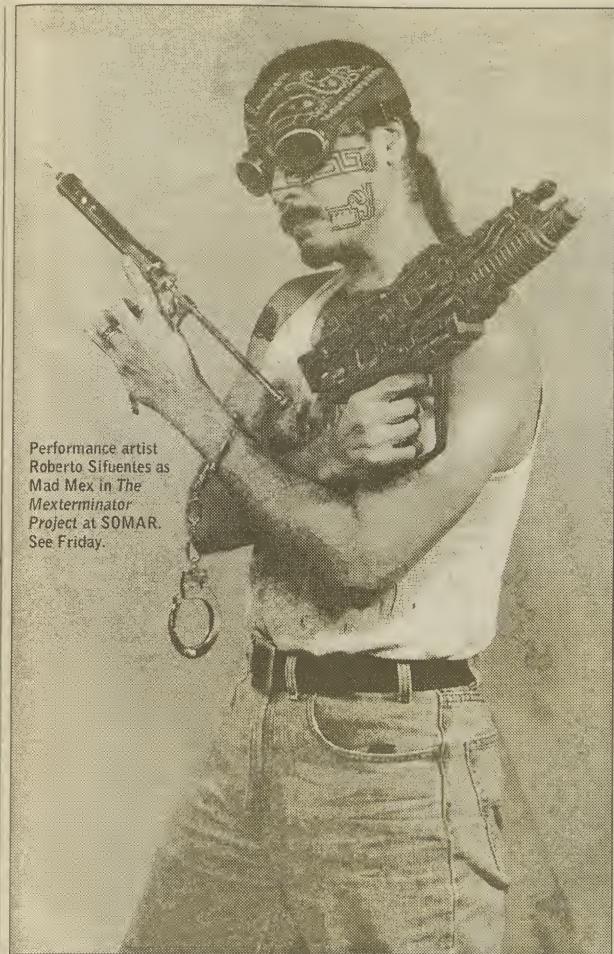
Contemporary basket artists, thru 3/15. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 775-0991.

Flip:

Beyond Big-Dicked Bottoms, interactive video workshop for queer men 25 and under, free. 6:30pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 431-2228, x777.

It's All True!

Film and video series chal-



Performance artist Roberto Sifuentes as Mad Mex in *The Mexterminator Project* at SOMAR. See Friday.

Gino Severini:

"Works on Paper from 1922 to 1965" and "A Futurist Footnote" exhibitions. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/22. \$2. Museo ItalooAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Hopes and Aspirations

"Decorative Painting of

Korea," exhibit thru 5/10. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

How I Learned To Drive

Berkeley Rep Theatre presents Paula Vogel's off-Broadway hit. Thru 2/27, call for times. Tonight at 8pm.



"Tiger with Magpies (Hojakdo)" from the Choson dynasty, part of *Hopes and Aspirations: Decorative Painting of Korea* at the Asian Art Museum. See Wednesday.

\$34.50-45. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison. (510) 845-4700.

Ikat:

"Splendid Silks from Central Asia," exhibit thru 3/1. \$7. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Lynne Tillman

Reads from *No Lease on Life*. 7:30pm. Free. Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 486-0698.

So, I Killed a Few People

Presented by The Annoyance Theatre and Pipedream Productions. Wed.-Sat. thru 3/25. 8:45pm. \$15. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

William Mann

Reads from *Wisecracker: The Life and Times of William Haines, Hollywood's First Openly Gay Star*. 7:30pm. Free. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Wings of Desire

First exhibition of *California Suite: New Art from LA*, thru 3/8. SFMIA, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Wittgenstein: On Mars
George Coates' theater work. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$24-36. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Ibur 26

Basket of Flowers

"Victor Dupree" in cabaret, performed by Brent St. Claire, Don Spezzale. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Black Hose Mountain
Works by Gay Outlaw, thru 2/28. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Combat!

"An American Melodrama," John Fisher's play on gay men and women in the US military during WWII. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Come In From the Rain

David Mauriello's erotic drama: a bank clerk and a buff call boy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Debra Chasnow

Award-winning director/producer speaks at 7pm. \$20. Film Arts Foundation, 346 9th St., 2nd Floor. 552-8760.

Financial District Side Show

Sketches and solo pieces performed by Bridget Schwartz, Liz White, Bill Bernat and more. Thurs. at 8pm thru 3/5. \$8-12. 450 Geary Theatre. 673-1172.

Full Frontal Nellie

Sketch comedy by the Nellie Olesons. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$12-17. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Full Gallop

Elizabeth Ashley's one-woman show based on the memoirs of former Vogue editor-in-chief, Diana Vreeland. Thru 4/9; call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$20-\$55. Stage Door Theatre, 420 Mason. 776-1999.

Happy Anniversary

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 7:30pm thru 3/8. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Joe Novak

"Color & Light: Recent Paintings," exhibit thru 3/27. McKesson Plaza, 1 Post St. 333-6530.

June Bride

(Just a Traditional Jewish Lesbian Wedding), Sara Felder's play, directed by Jayne Wenger. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Meldown

"Charting the Condition of Cool" panel discussion. Exploring what it means to be "alternative" at the end of the century. 8pm. \$6. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Robert Moses' Kin

Two programs featuring repertory favorites, live musical performances by Marcus Shelby and his trio and SoVoSo, guest choreographer Julia Adam, more. Thurs.-Sun at 8pm, also 2pm Sun. \$12.50-\$18.50. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

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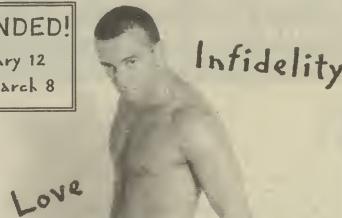
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PARTING GLANCES

Victor from L.A. Jan 4th Sun. Spoke to Lonestar, had great time just talking. Left with my friend on his bike giving me a lift, next time in town call. ☎ 1001

Michael @ Campton Place 1/24 Met before my blind date over lemon-drops. Wanted to go out with YOU. Call me and let's cook together. James. ☎ 1002

Patrick at CCSF Gay Studies We met in Washington D.C. Jan 18 at M.A.L. I'll be in SF mid-Feb; really want to see you again! ☎ 1003

Chinese cultural center Th 1/22 Interested in Chinese culture & more? Last on elevator, then opened door for you. Gentleman in black coat too shy and polite to approach you in public. Please call. ☎ 1004

Rob 1/17/98 WF Bank n' Mkt. Our puppies became friends while we talked. Sorry I had to dash. Should have gotten your number or a date-Billy. ☎ 1006

Emergency Round Commuter I think I accidentally erased your message before listening to it. Try again? Please? ☎ 1007

Rob Eros Fri Dec 26 You: dark hair, goatee, 30's, top. Me: Jim, dark hair, stocky, hairy chest. We connected upstairs then smiled in the shower. Round 2? Please. ☎ 1008

Black butterfly tattoo - Folsom Sun, 1/18. You: nice body, great kiss. I believe this was our second time. Me: shy glad you. Let's get together in a more private space. ☎ 1009

Motorcycle escort my blk. jeep 1/30/98 7:00pm. You: motorcycle, leather jacket, white/silver helmet at BOFA. Stopped by my jeep at Market, played eye tag thru your mirror. You turned on Duboce, should have followed. ☎ 1102

Vincent—I&S from Hawaii Castro Street, January 31. Sat. We walked from 18th to 17th. I was distracted by many responsibilities that afternoon. Wish I'd given you my number. Please call, Randy. ☎ 1103

Mitchell - Jury duty SF 1/27 I was the older man, the room behind me lots of eye contact, but you were called out first. Liked what I saw including tattoo. If you did too please call. ☎ 1104

Starbucks' Noe+24th tues. 1/27 6:30 A.M. You: Cute guy driving red SUV Me: Flight att in white jeep. What a smile. Lets do coffee. S 1121

Chows cannoli Thurs 1/22 Sitting by kitchen, you with a friend, me with one. You shared your cannoli with me and I apple pie with you. Would like to meet you. ☎ 1005

New Years Eve - Folsom You: tall, slim, longhair, glasses, 20ish. Us: Bearded, biker jacket, leaving My Place @ closing time. Took you to Mac's. Want more? We do! ☎ 1105

Thurs. Jan 29, Downtown FloreKarma! Saw each other on Kearny. We both looked. Later at Cafe Flore. Karma? You: blue coat, tan pants, beautiful eyes. Me: jeans, black jacket. Do you believe? If so, call! ☎ 1105

Germany St Sat 1/31 You: walking black dog. Me: standing at bakery door or phone. You watched, came back, said "hi." Couldn't get off the phone fast enough. Want to meet you and your dog? ☎ 1101

Brunch Port Cafe Sat 1/30 You: Tall dark, fit, Hardbut/tight shorts. Me: Blonde, slim, blue eyes. How about next Sat? ☎ 1106

Glen Park Bart You: Maroon bomber, Me: With friend. You were getting cash, ou followed into Bart. Lets meet. ☎ 1206

Mecca Sunday Night 1/18/98 Mens restroom. Sebastian, you introduced yourself. Would like to meet again? ☎ 1107

Bart Embarcadero Tue. 1/27 930p

Me: Leather jacket, white shirt, blue jeans, goatee, cute. Rode train to W. Oak was too shy to follow you off the train. Would like to connect definitely! ☎ 1108

Erik from Santa Cruz I met you late Saturday night (1/24) in Lighthouse park. I was wearing a ski jacket and you liked my name. I want to see you again. ☎ 1109

Sat 1/24 At the Metro You were sitting against the mirrored wall talking to an older friend. I was at the bar. We smiled, stared at each other, nodded, and winked. Lets meet! ☎ 1110

Fri-1/23 At Moby Dick Bar You: dark jeans, flat top or crew cut with friend. Me: blue jeans, short hair with friend. Lots of smiling, then you left - U R cute! Call me. ☎ 1111

Sophisticated Man Martini's We both were with friends at the bar. You, broad shouldered, handsome, professional appearance. Me, green eyes, wavy hair, full lips. I came back, missed you. We should chat, no? S 1200

Smith-Kline Labs 2/9/98 Met you in 440 Post elevator after your blood test. We talked going into Union Square Garage. Were you cruising me? Are you single? Should we meet for coffee? ☎ 1202

Safeway @ 16th & Potrero 2/1 Sunday @ 5pm, check out line. You: Tie dye T-shirt, glasses, cute Me: Shy Latin guy behind you. Pls. call if interested. ☎ 1205

Too cute to talk to "My Place". Your earlier frolic caught me off-guard. My loss! How about 2nd chance? I would like to thank you routinely. ☎ 1010

I50: Kitty Glamour Please call again. You have sparked my heart with love... And lust. I'm willing to settle down and let you make a married man out of me. ☎ 1207

Gay Pride, San Diego Dance Boat You were Bill from SF. With red hair and black t-shirt. My friends and I were from Arizona. We had a nice chat but then lost contact. Lets talk again. ☎ 1209

L Munir Mngmry. Thu. 2/5 5:45 You: Tall, black hair, leather jacket, court shoes. Me: 5'11", brown hair, goatee, gold jacket. Too shy to say hi. Coffee? ☎ 1204

Cory 213 AM Kearny @ Sacto You: Looking for time and #15 bus. Me: Eric, tried to help. Should have given you my number. Second chance? S 1201

Robert Thorley From Merced Saw you on the inbound J Church at approximately 7pm one night. Please get in touch. John from Fresno. ☎ 1203

Met @ Yukon Mining You- in LA in Jan, You-were with a friend. You approached me. You-said I was attractive. I ate alone, I-thought you might be with a boyfriend & so I didn't think to give my number. I-hope you get it now! I-think you are very handsome, but didn't say so then! Will be visiting SF soon, call Ross. ☎ 1208

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Middle-Eastern Boy Cute, 26, 5'6", 130#, seeking White Latino or European men, preferable under 5', height/weight proportionate. I want to meet men interested in long conversations, endless kisses, and passionate nights. ☎ 1011

No carnivores Let's start with dinner and see where that leads. Basic mid-40's White man. More green than gray, limited free time, wants it all. ☎ 1012

GQguy seeks young Matt Damon Handsome GWM, 45, 5'9, 150, in-shape, professional, willing to share safe sex, fun and travel with GWM, 18-23, HIV-a must, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Peer or SF. Have beach house! ☎ 1014

Goodlooking GAM Seeks GWM For LTR. Me: romantic, sincere, honest, mature, professional, 5'6"-150#, bi/br, HIV-, healthy & fun. You, GWM, 30-40, goodlooking/handsome, tall, successful, in good shape and very honest. Seeking LTR. ☎ 1121

Seeking cub for LTR GW big daddy bear wants a young cub at his side. Loyalty, versatility and intelligence are a plus. Must have some facial/chest hair. Under 40ys. stocky build. LTR possible. ☎ 1015

Nice looking GAM seeks romance GAM, 28, 5'3 1/2", handsome, smooth, educated, loves books, music, piano, movies, travel, outdoors and dining. Seeking in Shape GWM, 27-35, handsome, educated for LTR. ☎ 1016

Brotherly love GWM, 51, 5'9", 175, brn/blue, beard, HIV- seeks loving friendship with sensuous, affectionate, and horny GM who enjoys contact, touch, massage, hand sex. ☎ 1017

New to East Bay GAM, 38, 6' 195, hairy and bottom looking for friends, who are easy-going, to have fun. ☎ 1018

GWM seeks other GWM or GAM for friendship, possibly more. Stats: 23, 5'8", good-looking, HIV-negative. You: under 35, NS, ND, good build, versatile, HIV-negative, and aggressive. I'm ready. ☎ 1019

Attractive Latino Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel, looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 1020

HIV+ East Bay top needed HIV+ bottom, 35, 6', 185, blue/brown, healthy, cuie pie seeks top to snuggle by my fireplace in Pittsburgh-LTR with dark-haired, brown-eyed smoker. ☎ 1021

Seeking Lover Man

Who I could touch, handle, rub, stroke, massage, make love to, and jack off on a regular basis. I'm a GWM, 51, 5'8", 175, brn/blu, beard, HIV-. ☎ 1113

Asian Male Seeking Friends GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", GYM body, smooth, dining and outdoor's. Seek WM 25-38 in good shape for friends/date and more. ☎ 1114

New Arrival In San Jose 31yo Handsome GWM, funny, interesting humorous professional, loves music, movies, travel, talk & exercise, seeking similar qualities in 25-35 yo man for relationship (platonic or otherwise). Lets talk! ☎ 1115

GWM ISO Hispanic Male You should be professional, sexual, affectionate and looking for LTR. I'm 5'7" 38, bln, blue, beard, outgoing and interesting. ☎ 1116

Tired Of Bars, Baths, Buddies? Me too! GWM, 48, 5'10", stache, hairy pecs, great body. HIV-. Smart, sexy. You: 35-55 physically, emotionally, intellectually available, sexually ambidextrous. Non-mainstream: EOC. Enough lonely nights me too! ☎ 1117

East Bay Guy Looking for adventures, honest, reliable, fun lover. I'm that and 41, 5'10" 170", smooth, cleanshaven, versatile. Swim, bike, read, film, theatre, music. Operators are waiting. ☎ 1118

Tired Of Sleeping Alone This AM 30's, 5'7", 130, seeks GM under 42 for LTR. If UR attractive, muscular and intellectual, not into club scene & enjoy foreign films/music. Pls respond. ☎ 1119

Seeking Asian Love GWM, 43, 6'1"-185#, brn/hazel, loving, caring, kind, sincere, honest, patient, ISO slim, cleanshaven Asian guy with similar nice qualities for loving LTR. ☎ 1120

Nice White Bottom Wanted 18-35 I'm a very handsome black stud looking for a relationship with a total bottom, must be white and a total bottom. 18-35 yrs of age only need apply. ☎ 1122

S. Bay Man ISO Amer. Born Asian Filipino or Hawaiian men, 25-50. Puerto Rican types are A+. I just turned 50. I'm 6'1" 195# of Danish/Swedish heritage. Call and we can discuss details. ☎ 1123

Capable Of Showing Love? Intelligent and Interesting East Indian male. 5'11" 32, 170bs. Attractive, a man who can commit to cultivating a mutual, exciting partnership, based on emotion, love and audacity. ☎ 1124

Romantic GWM Seeks GLM soulmate. I'm 5'10", 34, brn/br, 165#. Fun loving, athletic and down to earth. Seeking a GLM to share my body and soul. ☎ 1125

Irish Stud Seeks Connection Young, fit, fifty, artistic, 5'11" 185#. Seeks younger, friendly, masculine, bottom men, friendship and more. ☎ 1126

Donde Estas ? Ambitious man, 33, sees a Latino compañero, muy masculino, para toda la vida. Soy, hard working, H.I.V., y des-espereadamente por tu amor. Soy 5'10", 175#, Negro, Piensolo tu. ☎ 1210

Old fart, fairly trim & healthy Would enjoy the pleasure of your company close and through the night. I'm clean and easy-going. ☎ 1013

Handsome Muscular Italian GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 1211

Are You Broad Minded? Caribbean gay male looking for guys into liberal politics, affirmative action, music, from salsa to classic. Good movies and sense of humor. You could be any race. I am 53 y/o and very sensual. ☎ 1212

Full Of Energy Packed to the brim with talent, young man seeks gentlemen for secret rendezvous and special times. Into spirituality. ☎ 1227

WM 40s HIV+ - Seeks GBM or GWM Im looking for compatible man for dating, romance, companionship, LTC. Im 6' 175#, affectionate, mostly bottom, enjoy travel, museums, friends, humor, etc. ☎ 1213

High Quality GAM 5'8", 140#, professional, honest and caring. Seeking other quality gay en for movies, theatre, travel, quiet times and possible LTR. S 1215

Are You Bottom Enough??? To handle this top, hairy, tattoo's man? Im 39 y/o, 6'2", 195#, masculine & muscular, hung 8", passionate, who loves pumping for hours. You: insatiable, intense, in-shape, masculine, 25-40. ☎ 1228

Boys Holes Frenched

Mindless blow jobs performed. Dark blond hair, perfect body, 5'10", late thirties funloving and real, gentle, honest, passionate, cute. ☎ 1216

Very Handsome All-American GM
36, Athletic/muscular build, 6', 180#, straight acting, good sense of humor, honest HIV-. Seeking good looking, masculine GAM 18-28, nice body and similar characteristics for friendship/Dating. S 1217

HIV+ Eastbay Latin Top Wanted
HIV+ bottom, 35, 6', 185#. Blondish, blue, cutie-pie seeks snuggie buddy, Capricorn on Virgo smoker. ☎ 1218

HIV+ Latin W/bot Wanted
HIV+ bottom, blub/r, 6', 185#, 35, seeks divorced sailor with cigar and kids. Eastbay preferred. I live at the Pittsburg/ Concord area. ☎ 1219

Man Seeks Mammate
Hello, my name is Ron. I seek a mate who desires to be with and share intimate company with a older guy, LTR. Call for particulars. No one need apply beyond the age of 26. ☎ 1220

End Of The World.

Wake Up, What time is it? Unconventional GBM, seeks GM for love-mate, 38, 6' 177#, slim w/goatee. Love mate 34ish to 42ish, slim, avg, looks, get ready, early morning love. ☎ 1221

Conscious Contact Heart&Soul
GWM, 48, 6', 190#, Red Irish, grad student. Loving, aware, spiritual, funny. Skfs friends for movies, swimming, steam, mutual massage & new adventures. Bodies are great, Souls are better. Bill W. friends welcome. ☎ 1225

Actual Nice (Mostly) Guy

Who likes music, outdoors, travel, reading, conversation, humor. 6' 170#, 40, brn/grn, good shape (42), u.c.m., friendly, grown-up articulate & some say gdlik. Looking for companionship & more, with complementary guy. ☎ 1222

New to Bay Area/Non scene
In shape GWM, 35, bl/bl, seeks GAM for friendship, fun, LTR, possible. Non smoker a plus. ☎ 1223

Seeking Buddy

WM, 6', 175#, br;br, hairy, athletic, attractive, healthy HIV-, 42, bottom seeks younger inexperienced top buddy for encounters. Be honest, caring, discreet, and straight acting. ☎ 1224

Bohemian Aristocrat, 57, 150#
Solitary man who feels fathomlessly, thinks kindly, tastes tastefully, sees sensibly, and is fragrant free. Non-Anglo preferred. S 1225

Handsome Young Boy Needs Dad
I cant find you here in Arizona. Me: Hispanic, 57" 130#, bottom, HIV-. Great personality. You: 30-45, attractive, financially secure & stable. GWM, looking for LTR. ☎ 1226

Spread'em On My Face
GWM, 52, ISO Bi or married guy under 40yrs. You need oral service fore and aft. Discreet, HIV-, E. Bay, clean and sweaty. ☎ 1229

ISO Two Hot Latin Lovers
You must be 18-28, 5'8", 9 in. or more, swimmers built, horny, in GWM, 32, 5'6", 155#, br,hz, horny. ☎ 1214

ISO Group Sex
ISO young well hung guys to do. I love to be a cumdrum. Im 30, 5'6", 150, br,hz, versatile bottom. ☎ 1230

SEEKING ADVENTURE**Wanted: Hot Nordic**

Sexy smooth bottom, 5'8" needs fucking from hot Nord. Prefer tall (6') with rice dick, handsome and professional, between 35-55. NS, ND, aroma OK. ☎ 1022

Action? In Alameda?
Masculine but submissive bottom guy with huge front or rear holes needed by massively hung top. Warning: I'm no beauty so please no SF attitude, beepers, novices. ☎ 1023

Senior GWM
60's, 5'6", 135#, muscular gynomized searching for any size age range to obey my commands Mid Pen. Be in good shape. ☎ 1024

Older Men
GWM HIV+, 110#, 5'2, stache, 55yo, with very hot hairy little tight ass. Need cocks, hands, fingers. Also I have 7" cock and balls that need to be stretched hard. Plus I love to suck. Please be horny!! ☎ 1025

Masculine muscular Asian top
Seeks submissive muscular man, 25-45yrs of age for safe fun. Me: 36, 5'9", 173#. You: enjoy being handled and used. ☎ 1026

Total Service Bottom
For hot mass. GWM, masc, 5'9", 163#, smooth butt, hot mouth, deep throat to serve you. ☎ 1137

Soccer boy

WM, 18, 5'6, 135#, blond bottom. Great compact freckled body, very cute. Seeks older. (30-60) macho muscle studs. Hairy a plus. I love to suck dick. ☎ 1027

Love to be fucked

by aggressive men for a long time on LTR. Me: GWM, 160#, 6'2. Lay me on your stomach and penetrate me with your big, hung, wet dick. ☎ 1028

Play this hairy Latin ass

GGM, 30, 180, 5'9, bottom, submissive and goodlooking in search of regular sex buddies. Open to all races, especially Big Black Cocks. ☎ 1029

Uncut?

WM, 40, 5'8, 140# ISO uncut male for oral play. Hispanic a ++. ☎ 1030

Sleek sensual blow-jobs

for well-hung, trim, Caucasian guys 30yrs and up. Kick back on my basement mass. table. No recip. Blue eyed brunettes a +. ☎ 1031

Hot rum/cum/piss action

Discreet GWM, 24, 5'3, 130, HIV-seeking GWM under 50, HIV- with cut dick for endless mutual rimming, blowjob, WS, NS, STD free. At your place. Call me. ☎ 1032

Seeking GW, GL, 6A 20-45

for cuddling, oral sex, and ball work by GWP, HIV-, 45, br/bl, very hairy, 5'11, 220, balding, uncut. ☎ 1033

Suck Daddy's dick

Down on your knees, boy. Your dad's gonna grab you by the hair as he shoves his big fat 8" dick up your butt. ☎ 1034

Green eyes seeks brown eyes

Attractive, NS, SF GWM, 38, 175, 5'10" seeks smooth-chested Latino dude for good times, vanilla to kinky, chunky boy, facial hair, shaved heads a plus. ☎ 1035

Gays for mostly Guy

Who likes music, outdoors, travel, reading, conversation, humor. 6' 170#, 40, brn/grn, good shape (42), u.c.m., friendly, grown-up articulate & some say gdlik. Looking for companionship & more, with complementary guy. ☎ 1222

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60's, 5'6", 135#, muscular gynomized searching for any size age range to obey my commands Mid Pen. Be in good shape. ☎ 1024

Older Men

GWM HIV+, 110#, 5'2, stache, 55yo, with very hot hairy little tight ass. Need cocks, hands, fingers. Also I have 7" cock and balls that need to be stretched hard. Plus I love to suck. Please be horny!! ☎ 1025

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Total Service Bottom

For hot mass. GWM, masc, 5'9", 163#, smooth butt, hot mouth, deep throat to serve you. ☎ 1137

Bury it deep

Well hung? Want to use all of it your way with a hungry bottom? 38/63/200, blonde, blue, goodlooking, in-shape, passionate, uninhibited. All hung welcum to pump. ☎ 1045

Blond top, hung 8" thick

wants to fill you up! I am in-shape, handsome, hairy chest, 38yrs, insatiable have a goatee and want active willing bottoms for fun. ☎ 1046

Hot Piece Of Ass To Fuck

If you are thin and have a hard, defined physique and love to get fucked, then this 61", 190#, 44yo, fit, muscular guy, would love to provide you with hours of hot, steamy pleasure! ☎ 1127

Scared Cubby Femme

ISO gentle loving older top to bring out the sultry pussy in me. 42, 5'6", 200# blonde requires STD-free safety before I let you touch me. ☎ 1128

Black Built Big Cocked Bro's

Wanted by straight living & looking 35 yo, long-haired, sexy smooth, 5'8", 150#, 30" waist 71/2x5" cut. Trimmed, bikini tan-line, I will eagerly service you. ☎ 1129

Dom Top Seeks Insatiable Bottom

Attr. 39yo, top 5'10", 170#, hairy chest strong arms & legs. Wants to work over Cauc. Asian, Latino, pig bottom under 38 smooth a +. Be hairy, hungry, ready. ☎ 1130

GWM HIV- 5'2" 54yrs.

7" nice ball has a fantasy about electric toys or gadgets around my ball's or light hairy little ass. I'm ready & willing & serious. Also I like sucking big cock. Age, race, unimportant, experience is there. Let's connect soon. ☎ 1133

Wanted: bottoms by Hot Top

GWM 31yrs, 160#, 5'11", br;br seeks guys 25-40, thin or muscular, who like to suck and get fucked. ☎ 1134

Bottom Boy Wanted 18-35 Only

Me: Horse hung black stud, looking for a nice white bottom must like it large and a hard pounding. No exceptions no back talk, just take it hard! ☎ 1135

Wanted: Big hairy firm butt

Aggressive top, hung big needs well-built WM, hairy with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 1038

I can keep a secret

You have a gorgeous body and every guy assumes that you are a top, but you secretly would love to feel 9 inches of fat, juicy Black manhood pumping your rear. Sincere you. Let's connect soon. ☎ 1133

Want to play with something big?

How's 8" thick and uncut on a hot top? I am inshape, goodlooking and seeking excited bottoms for real hot sex play. ☎ 1040

Talk, fight, struggle for top

Seeking the wild side, GWM, 50, 5'10, HIV-, looking for wrestling, boxing, round dashes, very aggressive. Ethnic, East Bay, your place preferred, all answered. ☎ 1041

Feral sucking

Retired professional provides organic, nutritious, copious and healthful oral supplementation of male hormones by mouth. Nite house calls to Berkeley. ☎ 1042

Just shut-up and ride!

WM, 33, 5'10", 200#, bl/bl muscle hunk, wants gook-looking, masculine men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged & jerked off. ☎ 1140

Spread'em On My Face

GWM, 52, ISO, Bi or married guy under 40 y/o. You need oral service fore, n/a, after. Discreet, HIV-, E. Bay, clean and sweaty. ☎ 1229

ISO Group Sex

ISO young well hung guys to do. I love to be a cumdrum. Im 30, 5'6", 150#, br,hz, versatile. ☎ 1230

ISO Two Hot Latin Lovers

You must be 18-28, 5'8", 9 in. or more, swimmers built, horny, in GWM, 32, 5'6", 155#, br,hz, horny. ☎ 1214

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You must be 18-28, 5'8", 9 in. or more, swimmers built, horny, in GWM, 32, 5'6", 155#, br,hz, horny. ☎ 1214

Why Waste Time Cruising...

When could you be with me? Tall, masculine, casual, 45, in shape, gym, NS, healthy pox, balding/buzz, hung, talented mouth, video's, ISO blowbuddies. Polk area a +. ☎ 1131

Love It Want It Need It!

When for go out and speak English. Im 39 y/o, 6'2", 195#, masculine & muscular, hung 8", passionate, woh loves pumping for hours. You: insatiable, intense, in-shape, mascara-line, 25-40. ☎ 1228

DOM Older seeks SUB Younger

For uninhibited sex scimed. Im early 70's and atrr. You are 18-40, submissiv and sexy. Daddy-on, master-slave, just good friends scenes explored. ☎ 1223

I Suck Real Cowboys & Aussies

ISO gentle loving older top to bring out the sultry pussy in me. 42, 5'6", 200# blonde requires STD-free safety before I let you touch me. ☎ 1128

Top Man Seeks Hot Young Head

WM, 40s, HIV- very masculine in shape dominant top seeks submissive, HIV- boy under 30 cujrn mouth, hairy deep throat into older men for long sessions at your SF place. ☎ 1235

Want Macho Hispanics

Goodlooking GWM, 40, 195 and 6' tall, also HIV+, seeks all Latin studs for good sex. You must be young 18-30, food looking, and ready to have a good time. Leave you #. ☎ 1236

Seeking Shorter Studs

GWM, young 40s, 5'9", 155#, HIV-, balding, stach, in shape, is hot for in shape 5'5"-5'9" tops. Lets play! ☎ 1237

Master ISO Slave

GWM seeks GWM slave for full time service. Be muscular and totally submissive, to age 45. ☎ 1238

Hairy Well Built Man!!!

Thats my fantasy, to be gang bashed by 5 blackmen, me: 5'8", 145#, hairy chest, stache, goatee. I am your sex slave for the night. ☎ 1239

South Bay Redhead Seeks GWM

GWM, 6', 175#, 36, masculine, hairy chest, goatee, stache, seeks San Jose area GWM, top for sexual encounters. Tall and/or hung, a +. ☎ 1241

Potro Hillbilly Seeks Filipino

Asian, Vietnamese U/S top. Looks age unimportant. V/A titrate a +++. All you can drink in exchange for all I can recycle. Call now!! ☎ 1242

Mutual Oral Pleasure

GWM, 45 yo, HIV+, 5'10" 150#, ruggedly built, hairy, work out, great kisser, seeks men (30-50) ht, wt, prop.) for mutual oral pleasures and friendship. ☎ 1243

Wanted: Older Man Of Color

Cute, bushy, WM, 37, 5'7", 135, oral, bottom, versatile, seeks safe sexual fun with African American or Latin man. Looks unimportant, uncut A+. ☎ 1244

Just shut-up and ride!

WM, 33, 5'10", 200#, bl/bl muscle hunk, wants gook-looking, masculine men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged & jerked off. ☎ 1140

Seeking Fuck Buddys

Goodlooking Italian guy 32, goodshape seeking two young hot guys for three way action. I have br;br, 5'10", 170#. Clean out. You are both gooklooking and well hung!! Lets have fun, call.... ☎ 1233

Bigger

Asian men sought by dark, handsome caucasian: 40, fit, friendly. 160+, natural buff preferred. Hot, discreet, very playful, plenty of time. ☎ 1246

Fucker Tops

Wanted for group action. Call with stats. ☎ 1247

2 French GWM 28-32 Years Old

In SF wanted American GWM 25/25 for go out and speak English. ☎ 1248

Are you Bottom Enough???

To handle this top, hairy, tattoo man? Im 39 y/o, 6'2", 195#, masculine & muscular, hung 8", passionate, woh loves pumping for hours. You: insatiable, intense, in-shape, mascara-line, 25-40. ☎ 1228

Prostate Massage

GWM seeks GM who enjoys having his inner organ rubbed, stroked, and massaged. Im 51, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV-. ☎ 1249

FETISHES**Rimseat & Dildo service**

Masc, att, GWM lots of toys ISO in-shape clean hot hole to 50. Versatile a + but not nec. ☎ 1047

BD, FF, Toes, Shaving, CBT

Chastity, domination, control, S/M. UB boy-slave, experienced. LTR possible. No drugs/drunks. ☎ 1048

Generous gum 55 sticks master

25 to 40 for S/M, BD, BD, wrestling, Judo. ☎ 1049

Seeks watersports leatherman

Lm, 29, masc, 5'11, 160#, bottom to be used by leathergars. Use me for your sex slave and watersport, your place. ☎ 1051

Hey, scat boy!

Tit blond hunk with hairy butt will send to you if suffer from hunger no more. ☎ 1055

Great head service

for the sensual bald or skinhead stud by very handsome mature GWM, 5'10, 150, white hair, beard, mouse, hot mouth, butt & touch. Guaranteed pleasure for the aware and adventurous. ☎ 1052

Daddies N2 FF w/ facial hair

Need ongoing spiritual revelation w/levi,versitle top, GHM/GWM, HIV+, N2 dildos, TT, FF, Me, GBM, 6'1", 200#, sh/t, sp/h and goatee. Need soulmate. ☎ 1250

Hairy Men Get Me Hot. Real Cum

Out There

◀ page 38

Brantley notes, "While none of the elements of this production come[s] close to replicating the screen version's images, they seem to capture the essence," in particular Epperson, whose "sliding style of speech as Harriet Craig — delivered with imperial arrogance — goes further than any literal Crawford impersonation is in evoking the style and psychology of the movie and its era."

If you're in New York, you can catch *Lysinka Is Harriet Craig!* at Mother, a Greenwich Village abattoir-turned cabaret, at 432 West 14th Street, where it will surely be playing long after our maggotted carcass has been devoured by pigeons.

More boring homosexuals

We were falling asleep on the F Market trolley the other day when we were suddenly jolted from our slumber by the sound of a **bitter queen** experiencing emotional meltdown just two seats away. "Homosexuals are sooooo boring," the perturbed royal shrieked, tossing down her Macy's bag, out of which rolled 92 pairs of Calvin Klein underpants, a preposterously chunky aluminum wristwatch, and a chartreuse polyester muscle shirt encrusted with glitter. "We've peaked," she said with a sigh, adjusting her backwards-turned baseball cap.

We must say we sympathize with **Miss Mess'** view of things. Homosexuals have become so redundant and tired, such mere echoes of one another, that most of us are now asking ourselves if we can stop all the Ellenized cheerleading long enough to re-



Beethoven

member exactly what it is we're supposed to be cheering about. Our emotional apoplexy was amplified one day last week after leafing through Boze Hadleigh's latest tome *Sing Out!*, which Barrière Books is hawking as "the first book to document the artistic contributions of gay and lesbian singers, musicians, composers, and dancers."

That's an awfully mighty claim Boze's flaks are making there, one that would be true if his book actually addressed gay and lesbian artists and their work. But it doesn't. Instead, Hadleigh names folks he thinks are queer, making sure along the way to mention just the right number of "out" celebrities to lend legitimacy to his altogether strange project. In the end, though, his enterprise seems as dishonest and empty as so many things offered up today in the name of queer culture. Are we really supposed to believe that singer **Bruce Springsteen** might be gay because he was once seen coming out of a Hollywood video store carrying *Kiss of the Spider*

Woman?

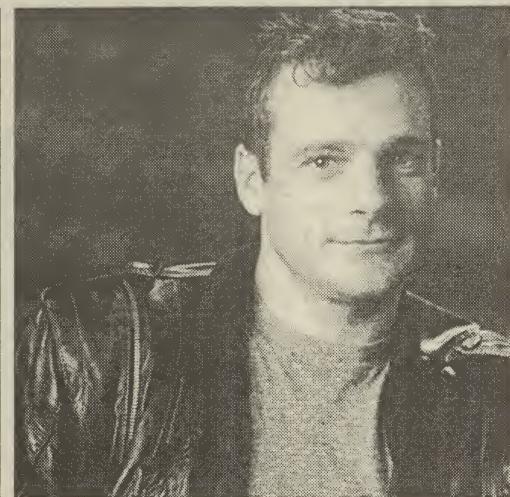
When Hadleigh isn't dishing up rumors, he's mindlessly rewriting history. Will someone tell us how it is that Hadleigh knows for certain composers **Beethoven** and **Debussy** were gay? Is Hadleigh in possession of a time machine that allows him to revisit every blow-job and butt-fuck ever enjoyed by a historical figure?

As evidence of Beethoven's alleged homosexuality, Hadleigh trots out the deaf composer's distressed nephew **Karl**, over whom Beethoven exerted undue neurotic control, eventually leading to the young man's attempted suicide. What a silly tack. Besides the fact that uncles frequently obsess over their family members, it should be noted that Beethoven obsessed over all sorts of things, from money he earned to the foods he ate (and was known to hurl at friends) to the Christian God he zealously worshipped.

As for Claude Debussy, Hadleigh twice refers to him as a gay composer, yet never furnishes an ounce of evidence to support his claim. Hell, even we know Debussy was a notorious ladies' man, was married twice, and even dedicated several compositions to young ladies. Why is Hadleigh trying to say everyone is queer? What is at the nub of this obsession? Alas, his mindless, blathering tome provides no answers.

New York or bust

Shortly after depositing gila monster Boze's book in the trash, we ran into that irrepressible Wizard of Camp **Marc Huestis**. Looks like our favorite impresario enjoyed such success with his December show *Christmas with Christina Crawford* that he's tak-



Marc Huestis

ing it on the road. The four-city tour, which will include screenings of *Mommie Dearest* and on-stage interviews with **Christina Crawford** at each stop, begins April 1 in Los Angeles, continues to Seattle and Chicago, and ends Wednesday, May 6 at Town Hall in New York City.

The latter date is significant. Not only is it close to Mother's Day, **Joan Crawford**'s favorite day of the year, but it also marks the 25th anniversary of the actress' famous 1973 appearance at Town Hall, at which she famously quipped about her shoes: "These come-fuck-me pumps have kept me on my feet for a goddamned long time!" (Rumor has it that darling Christina was supposed to be at the event but took a raincheck when she got within sniffing range of mama's best-tedness.)

As an added bonus for the New York show, *Mommie Dearest* star **Mara Hobel** will be on hand, as will film critic **Rex Reed**, who will perform emcee duties. For

more information about the tour, phone Marc Huestis at 863-0611, or email him at: hostess@best.com.

New man

Finally, many readers have contacted us in recent months wanting to know the whereabouts of the notorious **SF Opera Flower Thrower**, that once highly conspicuous weed-hurling degenerate who was so often a target of our mirth and dismay at Out There. Rumor had it that he'd fatally injured himself by falling on his shears; others speculated he'd fallen into the sea while in hot pursuit of a cliff-dwelling Helianthus. But in actuality, the Flowered One is alive and well and doing fine. In fact, we spotted him just last week at the San Francisco Ballet, weedless, moving in and out of the shadows in the standing room section of the War Memorial Opera House. "Change is possible," we found ourselves saying with a smile, "and isn't it refreshing." ▼

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Tender fictions

Movieline recently published a list of the "best ideas" Hollywood had in 1997. Since most of what made the list was lame, we couldn't help but wonder what catastrophic debacles of human intelligence would pass for Hollywood's "worst ideas." After two months of intense research, we uncovered from Hollywood garbage cans some 2,542 ideas so preposterously stupid they made Kevin Costner's *Postman* look like *Citizen Kane*. Among the more abstruse notions we came across were:

1. *The Lauren Bacall Show* (Suits thought they had a great idea in a weekly talk show hosted by this '40s film legend until taping commenced and they discovered Bacall couldn't remember the names of any of the show's guests and was only interested in talking about cigarettes and Bogie.)

2. *Zoo World* with Roseanne (Money flowed freely for this one until Roseanne got into an ugly tussle with a 300-pound gorilla named Heimlich. Although the TV star prevailed, her set-to-with wildlife didn't sit well with those nice folks from PETA, who threatened to incinerate the studio if Roseanne didn't quit the show. In an interesting turn of events, Richard Gere's name was floated as a possible replacement, but for obvious reasons PETA rejected the idea.)

3. *Martha Stewart in Ali McDuff: Private Investigator* (Tinsel-town honchos loved the idea of the Happy Homemaker playing a tough-as-nails private investigator, but were nonplussed by Stewart's apparently obsessive-compulsive need to interpolate diatribes about homemaking into virtually every episode of the series.)

4. *The Andy Crispo Story*, starring Val Kilmer. (Nobody in Hollywood wanted to touch this story about the once-high profile art dealer who, back in the '80s, flipped out on coke and chopped up his trick and then burned the body. Kilmer, however, was so persuasive in a screen test that studio honchos decided to turn the film into a weekly television series about art, murder, sex, money, and drugs. Unfortunately, Mr. Crispo is still alive and his attorney's put a kabash on the whole idea.)

5. *Faye Dunaway in a remake of Rosemary's Baby*. (Producers were thrilled with the idea of working with the legendary Oscar-winning actress on a remake of Ira Levin's classic 1968 gynecological thriller, until they learned that Dunaway had her eye on Mia Farrow's part, not, as they had expected, Ruth Gordon's devil-worshipping matron. Poor Faye. She's such a mess.) ▼

THEATRE

G.I. blues

John Fisher's 'Combat'

by Richard Dodds

Don't ask, don't tell" is a national policy that sounds more like a punchline. In *Combat!*, playwright-director John Fisher takes us back to World War II to poke bitter fun at the beginnings of a philosophy of exclusion he suggests was actually empowering. Homosexuals were forced into a group thanks to the military, one that eventually got tired of having sand kicked in its face.

Combat! is Fisher's unlikely follow-up to *Medea, the Musical*, a campy backstage musical comedy that became a local hit. But if the new work is exploring more serious matters, it shares with its predecessor an outrageousness that serves to keep the audience at attention and its soapbox from getting too slippery. The production at the Victoria Theater emerges as a robust, imaginative, thought-provoking, and often hilarious tour of duty led with assurance by Fisher and his loyal company.

In the play, Fisher sustains three distinct but complementary storylines that unfold thousands of miles apart. In a Marine outfit in the Pacific, two privates fall in love, get caught, and wind up branded as degenerates in a psychiatric ward. In a WAC unit in Europe, a major introduces a lieutenant to the ways of lesbian love, a love that not even death can stifle. Meanwhile, back in Washington, Dr. Harry Stack Sullivan is fighting vainly to keep homosexuality out of the psychological evaluation he has developed for the military.

Although Sullivan was a real-life figure, and the program contains a selected bibliography, the notion that this is a realistic doc-

John Fisher in *Combat!*

umentary is quickly turned on its head. Characters come back from the dead, see into the future, and often behave like figures in an adult comic book. Sullivan, however, remains a serious figure, and to him befalls the play's sometimes preachy messages. Yet because his activism is revealed as fictional, other "facts" of institutional homophobia he uncovers become suspect.

Fisher himself plays the unpredictable sergeant with wicked glee. Those carrying the main storylines are Gary Cannon and Christian Milne as the Marine lovers, Erin-Kate Whitcomb and Jana Chavez as the lesbian WACs, and Christopher Herold as Dr. Sullivan. ▼

Combat! An American Melodrama is up through March 14 at the Victoria Theatre. Tickets (\$21 and \$24) are available through the Community Box Office Network (621-7797) or BASS (776-1999).

Out on video

Nails on chalkboard

by Will Shank

Chasing Amy; Buena Vista Home Video, \$39.50

Crawling upward from such amateurish flicks as *Clerks*, Kevin Smith imposes upon society a misguided hetero view of homosexuality in his latest film, *Chasing Amy*. The synopsis is something like this: Clueless Straight Guy falls in love with Sexy Lesbian and becomes Mr. Right.

Cute, twenty-something Ben Affleck plays Holden, a New Jersey cartoonist who has a close, ambiguous relationship with his "inker," played by Jason Lee. For most of the two hour film, both actors are forced to read some of the most stilted dialogue imaginable. Joey Lauren Adams plays the lesbian whom Holden thinks she can turn straight. At first, her baby-like, Jennifer Tillyish voice is fetching, but by the film's angst-laden second half, the voice is like nails on a chalkboard.

Adams' Alyssa goes through the motions of political correctness in order to protect her lesbianism, but the fantasies of writer/director Smith ultimately prevail. The only redeeming feature of this film is its portrayal of a casual, if highly improbable, friendship between the suburban

straight boys and a campy urban homo (Dwight Ewell) who masquerades at comic book trade shows as a black militant.

Love! Valour! Compassion!; released by New Line Cinema, \$47.50

Terrence McNally's endlessly celebrated play has survived the transition to the silver screen (and now the small screen) intact. In addition to most of the original stage cast, Jason Alexander, of *Seinfeld*, appears as Buzz, the Broadway musical queen. It is not a performance admired by all, but I find his presence brings a touch of Hollywood pizzazz to a very New York-centered story. The unsung performances include a campy double appearance by John Glover as the Jekyll twins, James the Fair and John the Foul, as well as Stephen Bogardus as Gregory, the host of the summertime sleepovers that form the basis of the film's story. *Love! Valour! Compassion!* is the successor to *Longtime Companion* in that its gay male characters grapple with the life-and-death questions that have become familiar to so many of us. If some of the situations strain credibility, the richness of McNally's language and the poignancy of his themes provide more than adequate compensation. ▼

MUSIC

Happy wounds for See Jane Run



We think emotional wounds are pleasurable," claims Jen Daunt, guitarist for local San Francisco band See Jane Run. "Just look at the title of the new album."

The Happy Wound is See Jane Run's second CD, and an apt descriptor it is. For amid Jen's jubilant guitar jangles, Kate Howser's upbeat bass rhythms and Nicole Kather's soaring vocals, these five songs are deceptively dark tales of confusion, blood, sports, and dysfunctional relationships. Take "In Hiding," for example. Although its lilting melody and poppy chorus make it sound like a love song, closer inspection reveals such downer lyrics as *It's not me when I kiss you softly/I'll may seem so real to you, when inside, I'm in another room.*

"Dark times are more real than happy times," Jen says. "They seem to go a little deeper."

"Dark moments are comforting, because they're familiar," adds Nicole.

But Kate seems to have the most rational reason for the band's melancholic lyrical bent: "The only

time I'm inspired enough to actually write is when I'm really down, and it's a last resort to feeling better."

Admittedly, many of See Jane Run's songs sound cathartic. It should come as no surprise then to find the group's biggest influences to be such intense bands as *Throwing Muses*, *PJ Harvey*, and the *Smiths*, with elements of each seeping into their own music.

When pressed to describe their sound though, the members of See Jane Run groan in unison. "We hate that question," says Jen. "But even we ask it. Our patented answer right now is 'gay biker gospel music.'"

—Adrian Roberts

See Jane Run's record release party for *The Happy Wound* happens this Friday, February 20, at the Paradise Lounge, 11th & Folsom Streets. Jojo and Superconductor also play. For more information, call 861-6906, or go to: <http://www.seejanerun.com>.



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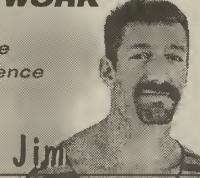
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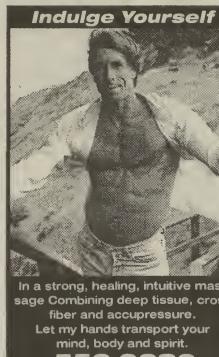
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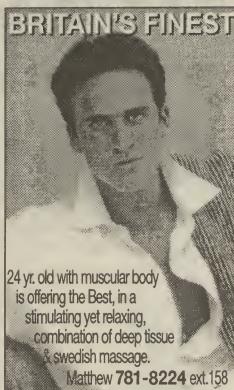


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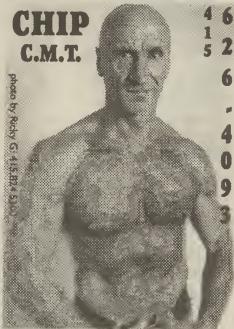


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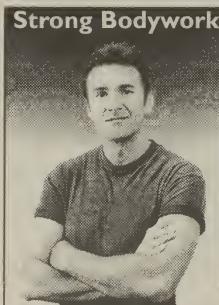
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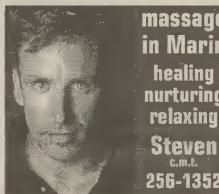
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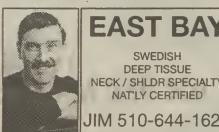
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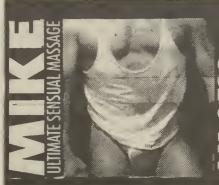
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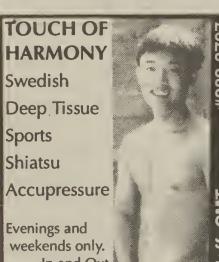


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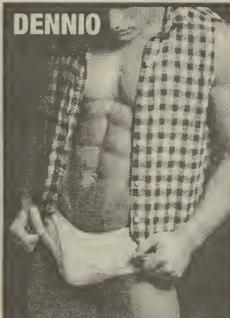
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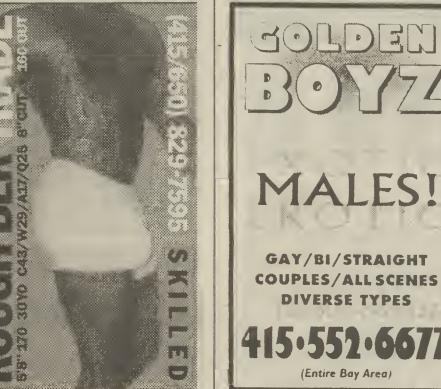
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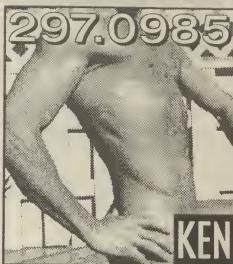
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PERSONALS

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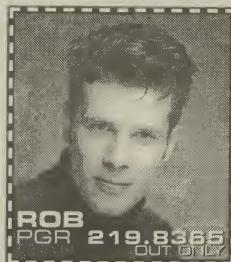
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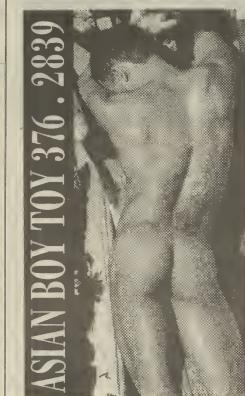
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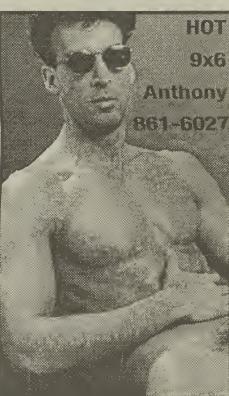
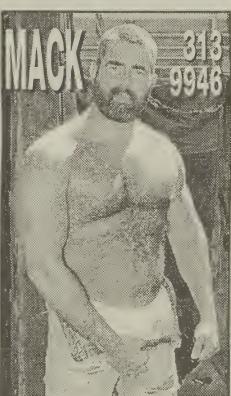
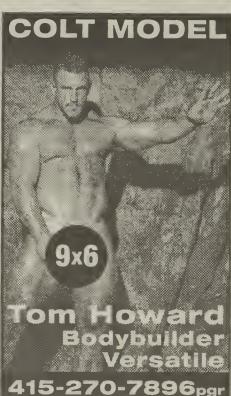
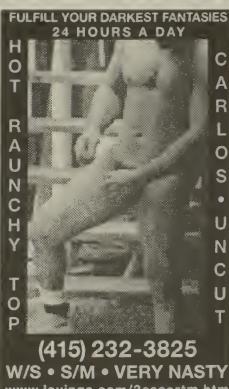
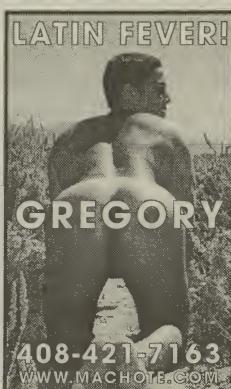
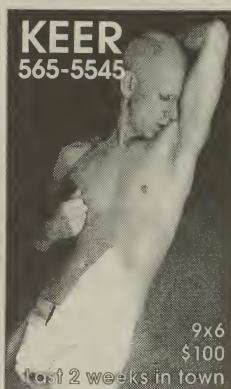
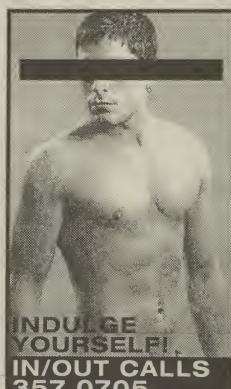
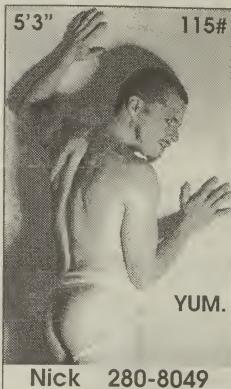
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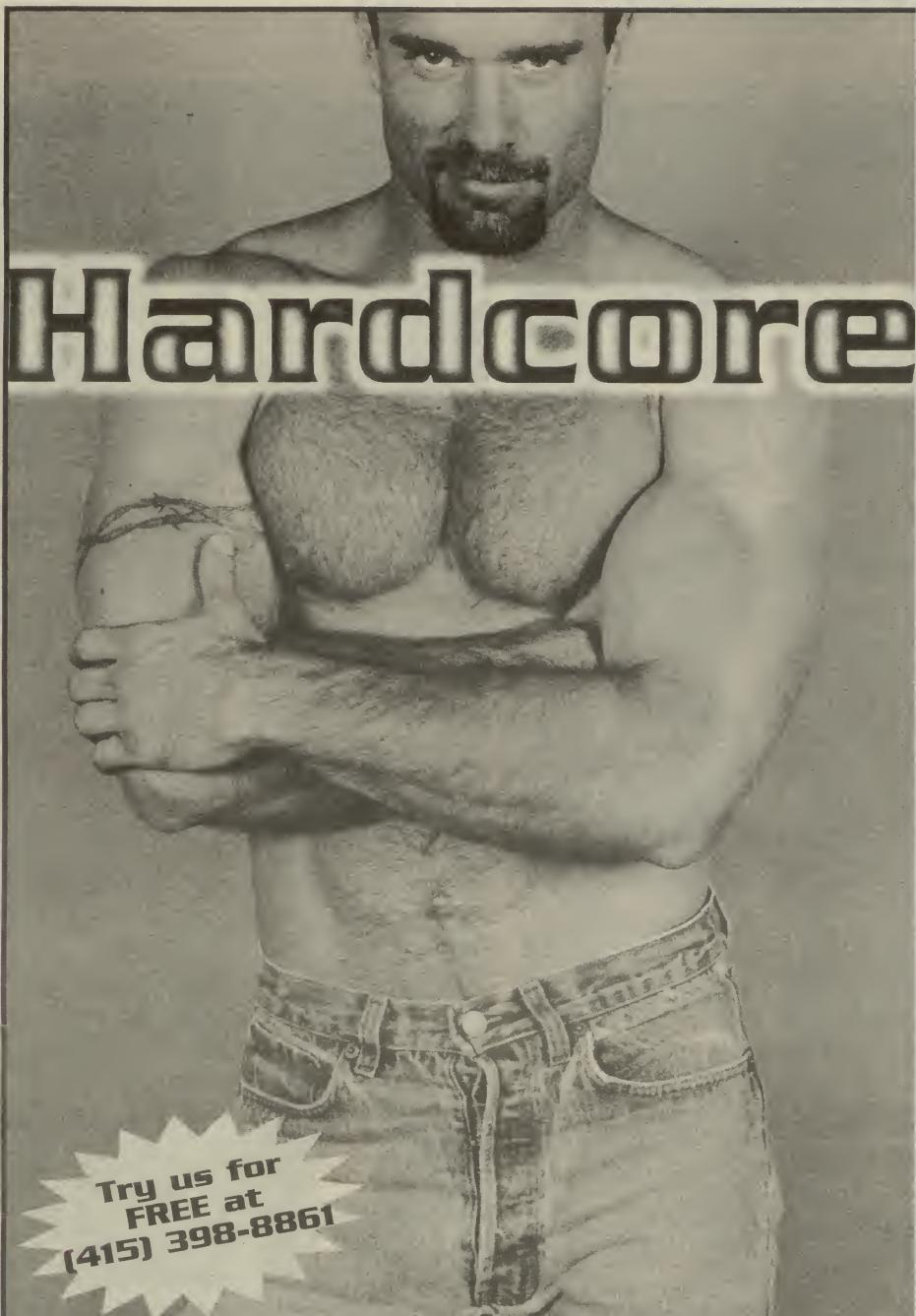
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